JOHN BULL

Vol. XVI. No. 403 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1914. ONE PENNY

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For meaning of this No. see page iii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ENTER

£1,750 FOOTBALL PRIZE

FINAL COUPON

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

The Clemak Safety Razor—as 5s.—is Made as Well and Shaves as Well as any Guinea Safety Razor.

... Note how carefully [illegible] of every detail—no [illegible] cutting edge. No other blade will shave your beard more easily than this.

... Now pay the GUINEA edge by edge with any other Safety Razor offered at a Guinea. You will then be yourself that it is in every way the equal of the other Razor—and costs you 19/- less to buy. Then why pay a guinea?

The only way to keep a razor sharp is to strop it. To buy a safety razor, and throw dull blades away, means a continuous expense for new blades.

The CLEMAK avoids all this.

Why not let your [illegible] do your shaving [illegible]?

... The barber is busy, so buy a Clemak and save yourself inconvenience and waste of time.

The Clemak Blade gives [illegible]

... The Clemak Razor so undoubtedly the best shaving instrument you can possibly obtain, and by its economical and reliable service will prove a friend for life.

... Buy one to-day.

... The Clemak Safety Razor and the Clemak Stropper is a perfect Shaving Combination. They cost together 5s. 6d. and last a lifetime. Why pay a guinea?

Including a few [illegible] which ensure you to shave at the shortest [illegible] and [illegible]. Extend a little [illegible] shaving down.

OF ALL STORES, CUTLERS, &c., [illegible]

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

STAR Safety Razor 1875

IN THE OLD DAYS

One could have as good a shave as is possible to-day, the Hollow-ground Blade predominating then as it does now. The first Safety Razor the "STAR," was placed on the market in 1875, the invention of a young cutler who had cut his features rather considerably with an old-style razor. Many "safeties" have followed since, mostly with "wafer" blades which require replacing after a few shaves. "AS THE BLADE, SO THE SHAVE." With the "STAR," "THE VALUE IS IN THE BLADE." It lasts for years and the first cost is the last.

List of Sets from 5/6 to 35/-.

7/6 for Set as illustrated with silver-plated Frame and Handle.

Of all High-Class Cutlers,

or MARKT & CO. (Ldn.), Ltd.,

98/100, Clerkenwell Road, LONDON, E.C.

FIRST READ THIS
If you predict the "Home" Team will win put in ink a X in the Home Column; if you predict the "Away" Team will win put a X in the Away Column. For Draws put a X in the Draw Column.

John Bull ENTRANCE FORM.

Matches to be played Saturday, Feb. 28th.

HOME.	AWAY.	DRAW.	HOME TEAM.		AWAY TEAM.
			Sunderland	v.	Bradford City
			Everton	v.	Manchester C.
			Sheffield W.	v.	Sheffield U.
			Bolton W.	v.	Middlesboro'
			Chelsea	v.	Aston Villa
			Birmingham	v.	Huddersfield
			Bradford	v.	Notts County
			Bristol City	v.	Bury
			Clapton Orient	v.	Hull City
			Glossop	v.	Wolverhampton W.
			Notts Forest	v.	Fulham
			Stockport C.	v.	Leicester Fosse
			Watford	v.	Bristol Rovers
			Coventry City	v.	Merthyr
			Crystal Palace	v.	West Ham
			Reading	v.	Plymouth Argyle
			Southampton	v.	Q. P. Rangers
			Norwich C.	v.	Swindon
			Northampton	v.	Exeter City
			Southend	v.	Millwall

I enter "JOHN BULL" Football Competition in accordance with the rules enumerated on this page and agree to accept the Editor's published decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

Signed .....

12 Address .....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

READ RULES CAREFULLY.

NOTE METHOD OF MARKING COUPON.

To safeguard the interests of our competitors we have adopted the following new rule for marking the Entrance Form:—If you predict the Home Team will win, put a X in the Home Column; if you give the Away Team to win, put a X in the Away Column. For a Draw put a X in the Draw Column.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL" 93, Floral Street, Covent Garden London, W.C., mark envelope in top left-hand corner, Football Contest, No. 12, so as to reach us not later than Friday, February 27th.

3. The sum of £1,750 will be paid to the Competitor whose entrance form contains the correct results, as published in the *Sporting Life*, of all the matches given played to a finish on February 28th. Should it happen that no entrance form be received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £500 will be paid to the Competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,750 nor the £500 being won, we shall in any event pay the sum of £250 to the competitor sending in the most correct forecasts, whatever the number; and £50 to the sender of the most correct forecasts on a mauve coupon taken from *Mary Bull*. If the sender of a mauve coupon should win or share the £1,750, or the £500 or £250, the *Mary Bull* prize will be awarded to the sender of the *next* most correct forecasts sent on a mauve coupon. In the event of the £1,750 or £500 prize being won, the £250 prize will, of course, not be awarded. The £50 mauve coupon prize will be paid in any event.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort. No correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted.

5. Any effort on which any alteration has been made will be disqualified.

6. In the event of a tie or ties in this Competition, the £1,750, the £500 or the contingent prize of £250, as well as the special £50 Mauve Coupon Prize, will be equally divided.

7. Our employees are strictly debarred from entering this Contest.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th.

SCOTTISH READERS MAY NOW ENTER.

DUPLICATE COUPON.

The following duplicate list of the matches is printed solely for the convenience of competitors desirous of keeping a record of their efforts. It must not be sent in, and will not be accepted as proof of forecasts made on the Entrance Form.

H	A	D	TEAMS	H	A	D	TEAMS
			Sunderland v. Bradford C.				Notts F. v. Fulham
			Everton v. Manchester City				Stockport C. v. Leicester F.
			Sheffield W. v. Sheffield U.				Watford v. Bristol Rovers
			Bolton W. v. Middlesboro'				Coventry City v. Merthyr
			Chelsea v. Aston Villa				Crystal Palace v. West Ham
			Birmingham v. Huddersfield				Reading v. Plymouth A.
			Bradford v. Notts County				Southampton v. Q.P. Rangers
			Bristol City v. Bury				Norwich C. v. Swindon
			Clapton O. v. Hull City				Northampton v. Exeter City
			Glossop v. Wolverhampton W				Southend v. Millwall

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XVI. No. 403. Week ending Saturday, February 21st, 1914. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *inquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

All remittances, applications for advertising space, subscriptions, orders, etc., should be addressed to Odhams Limited, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for FEB. 14th, 1914, bearing on its Cover the Number 520,510.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

"The King's Speech."

Was there ever a more humdrum document? Compare it with the one *we* published! And wasn't it playing the game a bit low for some of the Tory papers to talk about "Mr. Asquith's Reply to the King's Appeal"? They knew very well that that appeal was his own composition, and that he was, therefore, merely replying to himself. *What* a game it is!

A Tame Start.

The Westminster show has opened very tamely. All the wild threats of the Opposition fizzled out in a colourless amendment demanding a General Election. Mr. Long, most amiable of men, led the attack, but was quickly checkmated by the Prime Minister, who made it quite clear, as we have all along predicted, that the sham fight between the Parties is fizzling out—and that Peace with Honour (and Office) is within sight. No, there will be no civil war. Mr. Redmond and Sir Edward Carson are rapidly coming into line—and all will be well.

The Last Drop.

But yesterday, as it were, we demanded that Mr. Sydney Buxton, President of the Board of Trade, should be hanged; it is now announced that the right hon. gentleman has been sentenced to be a Lord. It is the same thing exactly. He has been elevated in order to be dropped.

Master Masterman.

There is something ludicrous in the idea of promoting this young gentleman, with a salary of £2,000 a year, to the sinecure of the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster. It is an obsolete office, and the best which its previous holder, Mr. Hobhouse, could say in its defence was that he was "maid-of-all-work to the Government." We were much tempted to run a candidate in Bethnal Green—but the plans of the Business Government League are so near completion that we did not care to go off half-cock. Before the poll, however, we shall have had a cut in.

Soft Sawder.

Listen to brother Boer. Thus General Smuts during the debate in the Union Parliament upon the deportations of the Labour leaders: "But for the enormous assistance we received last July from the British military forces we should have been in a very terrible position. This country can never be sufficiently grateful to them and to the gallant officers who assisted us at that time." Tommy Atkins is getting quite popular in the Transvaal, as long as he is a good boy and useful to the Boer leaders, but we fancy he will resent General Smuts' patronising thanks.

An Unfortunate Phrase.

In the course of the sham debate upon the sham amendment of the sham leader of the sham Labour Party, Mr. Harcourt, the sham Secretary of the sham Colonial Office, used a somewhat unhappy phrase. "We must not," he said, "talk about 'British citizenship' in South Africa—we should say 'British subjecthood.'" Sounds nice, doesn't it? What about "Brother Boer" now?

The Decadence of Parliament.

When Members of Parliament returned to their "duties"—in the tea and smoking rooms—they discovered that all the boxes of matches were labelled "This box belongs to the Office of Works." Imagine such a thing in the days when the House of Commons was the first club in the country for English, Scottish and Irish gentlemen! But why did not the First Commissioner give instructions for the similar marking of the soap? And the notepaper and envelopes? There is one anonymous M.P. who regularly bombards us, all the year round, with abusive epistles written on stolen stationery; and we are sure that if he ever washes, it is with soap of the same category. Then there is the big traffic in Estimates, Bills, Blue-books and other parliamentary publications which goes on between certain Members and various publishers and booksellers. Such is the decadence of the House under the Party system!

Naval Canteen Contracts.

After the Army Canteen trial we may have something to say about the administration of Stores supplies and Contracts in the Navy.

Your Last Chance to Win our £1,750 Football Prize. Final Coupon this week. See p. 31.

Captious Criticism.

We have little patience with the suggestion that Mr. Churchill has been guilty of "irregularity" in respect of "over-spending" at the Admiralty during the past year. The excess of expenditure in question has been due to circumstances which no measure of prevision could have foreseen, and, moveover, it has redounded to the maritime supremacy of the nation. It is unthinkable that the head of a great Imperial department should be "allowanced" like a schoolboy on holiday, and roundly scolded if he should by hair's breadth exceed anticipated disbursements. The practice of introducing supplementary estimates to cover unforeseen liabilities is a frank recognition of a Minister's right to exercise a discretion in such matters, subject only to the saving proviso that he must justify to Parliament the expenditure for which he has assumed official responsibility. And when Mr. Churchill faces the Commons his critics will scuttle like frightened hares.

Weighty Words.

No man has a better right to pronounce upon the armaments question than the Foreign Secretary, for the policy of the Admiralty must needs be shaped with a close regard to the exigencies of our diplomatic relationships with other Powers. In his recent speech at the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Sir Edward Grey made it clear that he will countenance no tampering with that margin of naval superiority which he believes to be essential to our maritime security. The common-sense of the existing situation was crystallised in a single sentence. Said Sir Edward: "For us to make an enormous reduction of our naval expenditure when there was no sign and no certainty that it was going to have a corresponding effect on the rest of Europe, would be staking too much on a gambling chance." Unlike many of the Party "leaders," our Foreign Minister rarely opens his mouth unless he has something to say.

Feeding the Poor.

When the Education (Provision of Meals) Bill was before Parliament in 1906, we strongly opposed the clause entitling the Education Authority to recover from poor parents the price of meals supplied to their children; and when the Minister in charge of the Bill admitted the difficulty involved in the collection of such sums, we sarcastically suggested that every Education Authority should be furnished with a stomach pump. We now have before us a formidable-looking document signed by "R. Blair, Education Officer for the South Hackney Electoral area," addressed to a poor man who has been out of work, and demanding the sum of 2s. 7½d. from him, with the intimation that unless the amount is paid forthwith legal proceedings will be taken to recover it. We should have thought the printing, filling up, postage, etc., in relation to the notice, must have made a big hole in the 2s. 7½d. What a farce the whole thing is!

What are Your Wages?

A complaint reaches us from the manager of a Sheffield firm that Ninepence-for-Fourpence officials have been into his shop during his absence, questioning his assistants not only as to what they receive in wages, but as to what his own wages are. This is, therefore, to inform these impertinent pokenoses that they are trespassing beyond the limits of their special job. They have no more authority to enter business premises to question assistants about their wages than they have to trespass in pursuit of game, in order to discover whether pheasants prefer a diet of mangel-wurzels. Next they'll be walking into the house when the good man is away and demanding to see the birthmarks of the missus.

Noble Nonsense.

The preliminary amenities of the Land encounter are becoming a trifle tedious. First we had his Grace of Sutherland trying to "plant" portions of his Scottish estates upon the Chancellor, and now comes my Lord of Derby in similar guileless vein. In the excitement of a political gathering his Lordship pretty clearly offered to sell his Bootle estates, valued by the Baron de Forest at from four to six millions, for a trifle of a million and a half. Lord Derby of course knew what he was talking about, and so, no doubt, did the land-bursting Baron, who eagerly seized the occasion to score a political point. The sum named was promptly offered and as promptly declined. Lord Derby had intended his offer to apply only to his "unencumbered" estate and not to those portions of it which had been sold, pawned, or pledged for nimble cash. So the Baron has made the "capital" he wanted, and Lord Derby will keep the land of his fathers. We suppose this kind of thing amuses some people, but it's poor sport for grown men, and noblemen to boot.

"Official."

Month after month we have been doing our level best to spoil the Great Emigration Lie by warning British working men of actual labour conditions in Canada, where—it is really repeating a story which has become wearisome—thousands on thousands of able-bodied willing workers of all kinds are at present walking the streets unemployed, a large proportion only saved by charity from actual starvation. And now at last Canadian officialism has not only to admit the truth but to promulgate it broadcast, a circular issued from the Emigrants' Information Office warning intending emigrants that there is an over-supply of skilled and unskilled labour in Canada, that "there is an unusually large amount of unemployment in most of the main industrial centres in Western Canada," and that mechanics and labourers should not emigrate at present. We go further, and do not advise anybody without capital to emigrate to Canada "at present." Its bunkum is busted.

Penal Servitude on the N.E.R.

From information received, it appears that the feelings of the clerks transferred to the Parcels Office at Leeds New Station are akin to a person sentenced to penal servitude. The working conditions are, like the unhealthy site, bad all over. The clerks are expected to be as clever as the General Manager, as strong as Samson, and as patient as Job; at any rate, in addition to their clerical work they have to wrestle with luggage, fish kits, and parcels of all sorts, being hired as a combination of clerk and navvy, apparently on the principle that union is strength. The sick-list has been heavy; application for assistance to headquarters has been refused; and to such a pass have matters come that salvation has had to be sought at the Labour Exchange for recruits to the service. The discontent may be disguised, but its existence certainly does not do any credit to the N.E.R.

A Futile Regulation.

One of our correspondents, a seaman in his Majesty's Navy, has called our attention to what looks like a petty and useless interference with the liberty of Service men. It seems that correspondence posted abroad addressed to H.M. ships is not delivered, presumably as an official protection against foreign Secret Service agents endeavouring to communicate with the men. The uselessness of the regulation, however, is apparent when one considers that such communications would in all probability be posted in this country. You might just as well try to stop our Jack Tars from getting their JOHN BULL Derby Sweep tickets!

Result of our No. 10 Football Contest. See page 5.

Too Stiff.

The growing practice, popular with certain magistrates, of "binding over" drunkards who express their willingness to take a teetotal pledge is one which we are unable to commend. The conditional offer is well nigh irresistible to a man faced with the immediate prospect of gaol, though he may be but too painfully conscious that the promise of abstinence will scarcely survive his release. In a recent instance at Farnham, a man discharged upon this condition walked straight from the police court to a public-house, there buying and drinking a pint of beer, which he may, perhaps, have honestly intended to be his last. He was promptly seized by a police officer and hauled back to Court—where he was sent to gaol for a month, not for his original offence, but for breaking his recognisances to be a total abstainer for six months. With all due respect to the sanctity of legal obligations, a month's imprisonment for drinking a pint of beer is a harsh and unconscionable penalty, even in the circumstances disclosed. In a proper case, a man charged with drunkenness should be "bound over" to be reasonably abstemious and of orderly behaviour during his period of probation. To prescribe total abstinence is unreasonable.

Who Shall Tell?

The indignant parents of Dronfield, Derbyshire, who have fiercely protested against the introduction of sex lore into the curriculum of the local school, do not seem to have insisted upon their own right to impart such instruction to their girls. On the contrary, they appear to assume that knowledge of sex matters will, in the course of nature, be intuitively acquired, and that express instruction is morally undesirable. We scarcely think this is a tenable view. It is more than probable that most of the children are already picking up scraps of knowledge in a nasty, secretive way, and the efforts of their school mistress may well serve to bring decent order out of a somewhat unwholesome chaos of ideas. We had rather a girl learned the essence of these matters from the lips of a tactful and womanly teacher than from the whisperings with chance acquaintances or from casual reference to prints edited by persons of the lower type.

Brutes as Sports.

Headington's Hunt had a delightful day out recently. A stag was released near Stoke Poges, hunted and hunted through public streets and private gardens, and over walls and fences till exhausted. Finally it tried to jump an iron fence, was there impaled, struggled free, lacerated and bleeding, and finally fled for refuge to a pond. There it was lassoed and taken into some stables, "where its injuries were found to be so serious that it had to be killed." In a proper condition of society every member of Headington's Hunt who took part in this damnable atrocity would be in gaol. It is a scandal to the country and an affront to civilisation that brutes like these—and like those connected with the Zetland Hunt regarding whom we have a few words to say elsewhere—should degrade the name of sport.

Another Sign.

The Glasgow Jewish Young Men's Society recently held a mock election. There were four candidates in the field—Liberal, Labour Unionist and Business Government. Well, you know the rest, but you do not know that the "Bus. Gov." man polled twice as many votes as he did last year. We are told that the ladies were allowed to vote, and that they plumped for the Business Government. Wherefore, let us, without further ado, have female suffrage. Hitherto we have been "almost persuaded"; now we are converted. By the way, what is a "Jewish" young man?

Narrow Escape of Mr. Justice Darling.

Mr. Justice Darling gives the Court of Appeal so little to do that we are conscious of a shocking shock in finding Lord Justice Vaughan Williams—Lord Justices Swinfen Eady and Kennedy assenting—rating him soundly for misdirecting the jury. In fact, in the appeal of the plaintiff in the frog-marching libel case of White *v.* Barnes, his Lordship has come very near to being dreadfully upset. "There has been misdirection," said Lord Justice Williams, "and it illustrated the way in which the Judge fell into inaccuracies. Instead of reading from his notes, he translated the evidence into language which at any rate did not bear a more favourable complexion as far as the plaintiff was concerned. . . . The trial was not as satisfactory as it might have been." This is undoubtedly no joke; but we expect to see our champion judicial humorist get quits with his grave brethren before long.

In the Air.

British and American airmen are canvassing mighty projects of long distance flight, and a "round the world" trip is already foreshadowed. Despite recurrent fatalities, there appears to be no abatement of zeal for aerial conquest, and the ultimate possibilities defy prediction. Successive advances in the art of flying threaten to revolutionise the requirements of Imperial defence, and it becomes increasingly difficult to anticipate correctly the exigencies of possible conflict between civilised peoples. We build our super-Dreadnoughts and wrangle over their cost, with a haunting presentiment that in the grim event of battle they may prove of infinitely less moment than current strategic theory suggests. Science is an inexorable mistress, but if safety is to be assured her utmost bidding must be done. Yet the flesh creeps at the thought of an aerial Armageddon.

Bravo, Again, Seely!

A few weeks ago a lad named Sidney Smith was charged before the Birmingham Magistrates with making a false answer on attestation. When trying to enlist he was asked whether he belonged to any branch of the King's service, and he replied "No"; whereas, as a matter of fact, he belonged to the Royal Field Artillery Reserve. He answered the question in the negative because he was out of work and wished to enter into the regular Army in order to relieve his parents of the cost of his maintenance. For this heinous offence he was sentenced to a month's imprisonment with hard labour! The case being brought to the notice of the War Secretary, however, he lost no time in getting in touch with the Home Office, with the result that the man was almost immediately released. That is business! Our eye is upon the Birmingham "beaks."

"Free on Rail."

From what a railwayman tells us, the public do not realise how frequently they are imposed on under "free on rail" conditions. The majority of railway rates include both collection and delivery within ordinary limits, and the purchaser actually pays the cost of cartage at the place of dispatch, this being included in the rate. The various railway companies pay out London rebates, in lieu of performing cartage, varying from 1s. 9d to 6s. 8d. a ton, and buyers should insist upon a refund of the equivalent of this from advertisers.

Mutiny?

We hear some ugly news from the China seas. Has the First Lord been acquainted with the rumpus amongst the crew in H.M.S. *Newcastle*? If not, he had better inquire. Something is very wrong, surely, when the marines have to interfere. Suppose *they* "kicked"?

Scottish Readers may now Enter our Football Contests.

A Paltry Prosecution.

We congratulate Sir Luke White, M.P., and the East Riding Magistrates with him on the Bench. upon their sensible disposal of a trumpery and vexatious set of prosecutions. The Buckrose Working Men's Club and the Driffield Football Club, with a view to raising funds, had organised a simple and harmless "lottery" of the kind commonly known as a "raffle." The winning numbers were published in a local newspaper, and there was no suggestion of impropriety in the conduct of the scheme. The police, however, being apparently at a loss to kill time, instituted proceedings against the promoters and certain of their assistants in respect of their contravention of the outworn Lotteries' Act. Upon hearing particulars of the charge, the Bench declined to notice the plea of guilty, which had been entered, and in discharging all the defendants, Sir Luke White expressed his sense of the triviality of the whole proceedings by depriving the prosecution of their costs. We fancy the Driffield police will be slow to "try it on" again.

No Thanks, Please.

We can imagine more heinous offences than that of Police Superintendent Woolnough, of Alford, Lincs., who was severely rebuked by the Judge at the Lincolnshire Assizes for thanking and shaking hands with the foreman of a jury which had returned a verdict in his favour. The officer's gratitude was clearly not that which has been scornfully defined as "a lively anticipation of future favours," and we doubt not that his too demonstrative behaviour was solely traceable to excess of joyous satisfaction. However, the proprieties must be observed and, as everybody knows, jurymen perform their duties without fear of favour or hope of reward, eschewing compliments and despising thanks. The most that a successful litigant may permit himself in the way of recognition of their labours is a distant and respectful bow. Winks or other facial gestures are severely taboo.

Dancing Unto the Lord.

Until we received the February number of its parish magazine, we hadn't the ghost of an idea there was such a place on this earth as Zeal Monachorum, in Devon. Glad now are we that there is, and that the Vicar of its "ancient and beautiful church"—Queen Alexandra recently appears to have accepted a book about it—is such a good, sensible sort of parson as the Rev. A. F. McCarthy. He *must* be a good sensible sort, for in the magazine he tells what a lively winter season his parishioners have been having in the Church Room, and how they enjoyed the dances. "Let me give you a bit of advice," he concludes. "If you eat or drink, do it unto the Lord, and if you smoke or dance, do it also unto the Lord." Bravo, Vicar! May you and Zeal Monachorum flourish abundantly.

Pushing Portias.

It having been authoritatively determined that a woman is not a "person" within the meaning of the Solicitors' Acts, an attempt is now to be made to amend the law in this regard. During the present Session, a Bill authorising the admission of women as solicitors will be introduced into the House of Commons, and we understand that it is already assured of a fair, if not a generous, measure of support. There are important classes of legal business in which qualified women might engage with credit to themselves, and advantage to all concerned. The raising of the present embargo upon their aspirations need not necessarily involve their admission to the whole field of forensic practice. In any case, we shall await with interest the text of the promised Bill.

Bigamy no Crime.

Here is another instance of the way in which the existing law of marriage and divorce operates to the detriment of the poor. Seven years ago a sailor named Henry Gooding married a girl at Torquay. The marriage proved an unhappy one, there being faults on both sides, and ultimately the parties separated, divorce being, of course, beyond their means. Gooding afterwards served for three years on the China station, and upon returning home became intimate with Annie Hammett, with whom, in view of a certain circumstance, he subsequently went through a form of marriage. There can be no doubt that the man's motives were entirely creditable, though the union was clearly of a bigamous nature, carrying criminal consequences. The whole sorry story was unfolded at the recent Assizes at Exeter, where Gooding was sentenced to one month's imprisonment in the second division. The lightness of this sentence was doubtless a concession to the patent hardships of the man's position before the law. What has become of the Divorce Commission's Report?

An Illegal Vicar.

When the child of some poor man or other does not put in a regular attendance at school he is haled before the magistrate and fined with the utmost rigour of law. When the Vicar of Landkey Church withdraws scholars from school in order that he may have a congregation for Epiphany all the Devon Education Committee do is to instruct the Clerk to tell him that "he has no business to do this." One of them, Sir R. Newman, expressed the opinion that "if children went to church more and to school less it would be a good thing." He is entitled to his opinion, but the law doesn't share it. A vicar has no more right to withdraw children from school to epiphanise them than mothers have to withdraw them to run errands or mind the baby.

Wild Swan Shooting.

Really, there isn't very much to brag about in the exploit of Mr. Goodhew, a tenant of some Sheppey marshes, in shooting at sight "a wild swan which is supposed to have flown across the North Sea . . . the first wild swan known to have been shot in Sheppey for about forty years." Let us hope it will be the last. One can feel nothing except indignation at such a wanton slaughter of rare birds which ought to be encouraged to come and make their homes among us. Give a fool a gun and the devil a horse and nobody knows what will happen. We hope Mr. Goodhew is never seized with a yearning to go out and shoot nightingales.

Sundays Off.

The peculiarity of this great country—or rather one of the peculiarities—is that the hare is a sacred creature and the wild swan isn't. Recently, for instance, a man in the employ of the tenant of land at Hedingham, in Essex, with written authority to shoot, was fined 5s. and costs for killing a hare on a Sunday—not knowing that under s. 3 of the Game Act of 1831 he had no right to desecrate the Sabbath. Now he knows that he must select his Sunday dinner on Saturday if he wishes to keep out of trouble.

Help!

Everybody's doing it, or overdoing it, as we have said. The Rev. A. H. McElwee, Vicar of St. Mary's, Cowes, also writes to the papers to say that he will lend his aid to Ulster. "I will support Ulster," says he, "to the utmost of my power in whatever efforts she may make to maintain her civil and religious liberty." There is a strong suspicion in the vicinity that he intends to preach a sermon.

Pastime and Profit is Provided by "Bullets." Prizes value £1,562 weekly.

We beg to ask——

Here is the form of a Parliamentary question that should be put forthwith to Mr. McKenna: "Whether the right honourable gentleman's attention has been called to a series of recommendations, advanced by the South Wales Miners' Federation, for the more effectual prevention of mining disasters similar to that which occurred at the Senghenydd pit; whether he has given personal study to these suggestions; and whether they are occupying the attention of the expert officials of his Department; and, if so, whether he will undertake to expedite their consideration, and to report the conclusions of his Department to this House together with particulars of such action as he deems it necessary to take?" If there were a real Labour Party, the question would, as a matter of course, be put, and an adequate answer insistently demanded. As it is, we shall see.

The Better Way.

It has been stated that the Rev. C. Silvester Horne, M.P., has, in consequence of medical advice, definitely resigned his position as Superintendent of Whitefield's Central Mission, but he apparently has no intention of giving up his political "work." We should have had more confidence in the sound judgment of the Rev. M.P.'s physician if he had advised his patient to abandon politics, for which he is constitutionally unfitted, and to confine himself to mission and revival work. This advice, in our opinion, would not only have been of greater benefit to the Rev. Mr. Horne, but also a great relief to the House of Commons and the public at large. We, therefore, beg to move the necessary amendment.

Party and Mr. Samuel, M.P.

Mr. Samuel Samuel, M.P. for Wandsworth, told the members of the South-West Licensed Victuallers' and Licensees' Society, after dinner a few evenings ago, that "When they came to remodelling the constitution, he hoped they might be able to dispense to a large extent with absolute Party government." Meanwhile, Mr. Samuel, like other politicians, is apparently content to serve Party as long as Party serves him. Why doesn't he have the courage to come out of it and kick?

To Scottish Readers.

Thanks to the public spirit and enterprise of our contemporary, the *People's Journal*, the stupid police regulation which had hitherto prevented Scottish readers from participating in our Football Competitions has now been knocked on the head, the Justiciary Appeal Court holding that the inclusion of the coupons in a *bona fide* newspaper does not bring the proprietors within the operation of either the Betting or the Lotteries Acts. Such commonsense on the Bench is refreshing.

MARIE LLOYD STRANDED.

URGENT APPEAL TO "JOHN BULL."

As we go to press, we receive the following cable from Marie Lloyd, despatched from Seattle, Washington:

In awful trouble, cannot move. Have called Home Secretary to intervene. No reply. Our offence not married. Willing but officials will not allow Dillon come in States, won't allow me return Canada. Please do your best for our release.—Marie Lloyd, Washington Hotel.

We need scarcely say that we shall leave no stone unturned to rescue Marie from her present plight, and hope to be able in our next issue to announce that this object has been accomplished.

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

GRETNA v. GOLDER'S GREEN.

[Golder's Green is claimed to be the champion "after-the-honeymoon" suburb, being inhabited mainly by newly married couples.—*Vide* Press.]

In those romantic days of old,
When maids were modest, suitors bold,
And tyrant fathers still controlled
And kept their girls in order,
Ofttimes the wooer's only hope
Was with his sweetheart to elope,
Or, using modern diction, slope
Across the Scottish border.

The chronicles of those dead days
Are full of tales of runaways
Who fled, with anxious backward gaze,
Through the wild northern scene,
To find, if meeting no mischance,
A happy end to their romance
Beneath the blacksmith's roguish glance
At famous Gretna Green.

Such escapades to-day are few,
A fact to many reasons due—
Fathers are more like me and you,
And bachelors are colder;
No longer love to Gretna guides
Defying all that else betides—
Instead, calm bridegrooms lead their brides
Down to the Green of Golder!

THE WEEK'S "BISCUIT."

[*"Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. Below we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For asking, during the hearing of a recent case, "Who *is* Mr. Jack Joel?"

MR. JUSTICE DARLING
Takes the Biscuit.

RESULT OF OUR TENTH FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

We cannot understand what came over our Competitors in this contest. A week ago 49 of our readers had but a single error. This week only six have qualified to share the Consolation prize—four of them ladies—and each has four errors. Surely better can be done than this. The six competitors sharing the £150 prize, and who, accordingly, receive £25 each, are as follows:—

BERRY, Mrs., 63, Clapton-st., Hulme, Manchester; HAZLEHURST, Miss Elizabeth, 341, Aigburth-rd., Liverpool; MOORE, Mrs. D., Corner House, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex; MATTHEWS, Mrs. W., 13, Burnaby-st., Cardiff; POORT, Herbert, 6, Victoria-terr., Bath; RANDALL, J. H., 45, Charles-st., Kilnhurst, Yorks.

For the Mauve Coupon prize, the following 18 *competitors share the* £50, *each receiving* £2 15*s.* 7*d. Their coupons showed six errors:—*

ANST, Mrs. F., Blythe-st., Glascote, Tamworth; ATKINS, Miss Ethel, 31, Green-lane, Patricroft, Manchester; BOYCE, Mrs. E., Lilac Cottage, Sholing-rd., Itchen, Hants; CARSON, Mrs. A. H., 1, Kingsgate-st., Reading; CLARK, Mrs. H., 41, St. Ives-rd., Leadgate, Co. Durham; DICKENS, Miss Ada, Glenhurst, Hetton-av., Peterborough; DREW, D., 7, Libanus-rd., Newport, Mon.; FERRARS, Kate, 86, Northcote-rd., Battersea; HAM, Mrs., 34, North-st., Guildford, Surrey; HALLIDAY Mrs., 45, Rothwell-rd., Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne; HARPER, Mrs., 31, Brock-st., Kirkdale, Liverpool; LEAVES, Mrs. C., 12, Bartrey-pl., Bermondsey, S.E.; MATES, Miss Hilda, 46, Constable-st., Hull; ROWE, Mrs., 13, Water Tower View, Chester; SLACK, Mrs. L., 60, Boston-Ave., Southend-on-Sea; STAMP, Mrs. H., Chiseldon, Swindon, Wilts; STEEL, Mrs., 65, Victoria-st., Maidstone; WACKETT, Mrs., 6, Poppy-st., Harwich.

Don't forget the Pen Coupon on page iii. of cover.

WE TAKE UP STARCHFIELD'S DEFENCE.

NEWSPAPER SELLER—AND CARNEGIE HERO—TO HAVE AMPLE LEGAL AID.

Last week we stated that there would be a dramatic development in the Starchfield case at the resumed hearing on Monday, and, as will have been gathered from the Press, our prediction was well founded.

JOHN BULL has long passed beyond the category of ordinary journalism. Having easily outstripped all records from that point of view, it has gradually grown into a great public institution—the repository of the people's troubles, and the natural refuge of the Man in the Street. "I shall write to JOHN BULL about it" has become a commonplace of the man or woman with a grievance, and we are happy to think that in most cases the mere threat acts as a speedy remedy for injustice and wrong. But "I shall *go* to JOHN BULL about it," is the newest formula—with the result that our offices are besieged daily by callers of every age, colour, sect and race, who regard us as either a Court of First Instance for the righting of their wrongs, or a Court of Appeal for the rectification of miscarriages of justice of which they have been the victims. The result is that we are compelled to employ, in addition to the ordinary journalistic staff, a little army of Special Commissioners, Investigators, Legal Advisers and other experts. Thus we have become an unofficial State Department, and are invariably in a position, whenever the public interest demands it, and no legitimate confidence is abused, to render invaluable assistance to the authorities. We could give a long list of cases in which, but for our intervention, gross scandals and frauds would have remained unearthed and unredressed. That, however, by the way. There is another aspect of our activities. Wherever the facts and circumstances appear to warrant it, we render practical financial aid to worthy objects. By the generosity of our readers, the appropriation of a Charity percentage from the JOHN BULL Derby and Football Sweepstakes, our "Human Document" Collecting Boxes, and in a variety of other ways, we have the control of funds which, coupled with our own resources, place us in the unique position of public almoner as well as counsellor; and the latest matter in regard to which we propose to act in that rôle is what is known as the Starchfield case.

WHO IS STARCHFIELD?

A man of about 40 years of age, a British subject, and by trade a street newspaper seller. The last-mentioned fact specially interests us, as he belongs to that class of rough, honest fellows upon whom our sales considerably depend He is married, and until the crime now being investigated, had one child, a little boy five years of age. But there is another incident in his life which renders his present position one of public interest. He was one of the heroes of the Tottenham Court-road tragedy—when the madman Titus, after shooting a barmaid at the Horse Shoe Hotel, ran amok in the street, firing at everyone in his way, and Starchfield bravely endeavoured to seize the maniac, who shot him in the stomach. For this plucky conduct he was made a "Carnegie Hero," with a weekly allowance from Mr. Carnegie's fund—in addition to which he received a special grant of £50 through Mr. Justice Phillimore, who, when presiding at the trial of Titus, highly complimented him.

THE CRIME AND THE ARREST.

The story is a simple one. About 4.30 on the afternoon of January 8th the body of little Starchfield was discovered, dead by strangulation, under the seat of a North London Railway carriage. At the subsequent inquest, two persons professed to identify the father as the man they had seen, with the boy, either at, or on the way to, the railway station on the afternoon of the crime. Thereupon, the Coroner's jury found a verdict of murder against Starchfield, who, protesting his innocence, was, of course, committed to the magistrate, and placed under arrest. In due course, he came before the Old Street Magistrate, his defence being placed in the hands of Mr. Lewis Margetts, of Messrs. Margetts and Jenkins—a solicitor of great experience in criminal law.

"JOHN BULL" ON THE SCENE.

Then *we*, as usual, came upon the scene. But we are not at liberty to comment upon anything except what is public property; and that has reference only to the witness Moore—whose interviews with and statement to us have already been referred to in Court, and concerning which it would not be right for us at this stage to say more than that we *at once* gave his name and address to the police, and also handed over to them his signed statement.

We may, however, say that certain other things occurred which led us to the view that, innocent or guilty—upon which issue nobody has any right to express an opinion—Starchfield ought to have the benefit of the best possible legal aid in the event of his being sent to trial. We accordingly sought an interview with Mr. Margetts, and, as will be seen from the following correspondence, we also made an offer to bear the whole expense of the defence. The interview took place on February 10th, and on that date the Editor wrote to Mr. Margetts:

> Referring to our interview this morning, as I then explained to you, I feel very strongly that Starchfield should have the benefit of an adequate professional defence in the event of his being committed for trial; that is to say, assuming that, notwithstanding your brilliant conduct of the case, the Magistrate should decide to commit. I have placed this view before my colleagues, and they feel with me that, as your client is, although in a very humble capacity, connected with the newspaper trade, and, further, is a "Carnegie Hero," they would be justified in acceding to my suggestion that JOHN BULL should defray the expenses of the defence; and I accordingly write to say that we shall be prepared to place you in funds for the purpose of retaining experienced Counsel at the trial and of assisting you generally in the defence.
>
> I shall be glad to know if this course is agreeable.

On February 12th we received the following reply from Mr. Margetts' firm:

> We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th inst., and have communicated with our client Starchfield thereon, and he desires us, in accepting your offer to defray the costs and expenses of his defence, to express to you his grateful thanks therefor.
>
> It must, however, be clearly understood that we are to have the entire conduct of the defence, and are to proceed in any way that may seem to us in the interests of the accused, without reference to any person other than Starchfield himself.
>
> Upon this distinct understanding, we, on behalf of our client, gladly accept the offer contained in your letter and take the opportunity of expressing our sincere appreciation of the generous spirit which has prompted your communication.

THE MAGISTRATE AND "JOHN BULL."

And there, for the moment, we leave the matter. In doing so, however, we must respectfully take exception to certain remarks of the Magistrate in regard to the part we have played. We will only say that when his Worship knows more of the facts, we think he will regret having been led, on a mere *ex parte* statement, into an expression of opinion utterly at variance with the facts.

REX'S RESURRECTION.

CUNNING ADVENTURESS'S NEW ROLE.

The woman calling herself Mrs. Rex Powel du Rand, who, following our exposure of her wholesale bilking of hotel-keepers and tradespeople, issued a writ against us for libel, which in the public interest we refused to allow to gag us in our warnings to likely victims, and who when the case was shortly to come on for trial fled to America, has not long lain dormant in her haven of refuge. The issue of the New York *Sun*, dated February 2nd, contains a long article recounting her exploits as a Company wrecker. It appears that her present husband, Courtland du Rand, in 1908 promoted a Company called the Belt Mountain Ranch, with a capital of £12,000 in £2 shares. The bulk of the stock was off-loaded at large premiums "under the influence of promised dividends of 18 per cent.," though there was a mortgage upon the Company's property. The certificates in this concern are probably some of those with which Mrs. du Rand used to dazzle her victims when they asked for payment of their bills. She, as the owner of 500 shares, has now brought a receivership action, following a judgment in her favour for £350. She is also seeking to recover an alleged loan to the Company of some £2,500, which she said she made to it several years ago.

THE BANKRUPT'S LOAN.

There was, of course, considerable outcry on the part of the poor shareholders, they being naturally highly incensed at the conduct of Courtland du Rand, he having in a recent financial statement made no mention of any indebtedness of the Company to his wife. The agitation is likely to result in action being taken by the shareholders against the officials of the Company, the principal of whom is Courtland du Rand—the "President," or chairman—a step which we think highly desirable, in view of the character of Mrs. du Rand and the fact that she has long been an undischarged bankrupt and not entitled to lend money in the way suggested. In a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Company issued in December, 1910, Courtland du Rand set forth that it, amongst other things, owned "produce unsold" valued at £2,000. Subsequent official reports containing no mention of this item, inquiry elicited the information that "a storm came up one night and blew away the entire £2,000 worth." This is not, however, so extraordinary as our American contemporary seems to think—we have heard before of the wind being raised with portable assets!

It is not surprising to learn from the newspaper report that Mrs. du Rand has been unloading, one unfortunate individual having been induced to pay her £5,000—£2,000 for 500 of her shares and £3,000 towards a syndicate to develop alleged mineral property adjoining the ranch. He however now finds that the property had never been developed at all, and "is unable to find out what became of the money." We think we could guess!

AN AWKWARD ENCOUNTER.

When Mrs. du Rand arrived in New York, after her ignominious departure from her own country for her country's good, she went to the Hotel Seville, and, of course, "did the grand." Three weeks later a woman called and demanded immediate payment of a loan of £30, and as the money was not forthcoming showed about the hotel a copy of this journal containing the account of the adventuress's sensational swindling career. As the *Sun* baldly puts it, "Mrs. du Rand left the hotel soon afterwards and the £30 was paid." She is now, it is stated, living at 118, East Eighteenth Street, and we think the many people who have been defrauded by her in this country should combine to secure her extradition. "*Rex* v. Rex Powel du Rand" would be an interesting case!

Mrs. du Rand, we observe, states that she "has made many enemies among women because she has been so successful in her dealings with men." Yes; although she has neither youth nor good looks, she "has a way with her," and exercises that fascination which a serpent has over a poor little buck rabbit. On this point we could a tale to tell regarding a Cardiff dignitary and his shamefaced "settlement" of her threatened impudent breach of promise action—to say nothing of some of the professional men whom she has bamboozled with her blarney and then ruined both in reputation and pocket.

THE "HOUNDS."

A WORD WITH LORD ZETLAND.

As the Marquis of Zetland may not personally be aware of what happened at the last run of the Zetland hounds, we shall take leave to inform him, for the Hunt bears his name. And here let us say that what we note about hunting accounts as they appear in the newspapers is that the names of those who take part in them are remarkably inconspicuous. According to custom, we find a similar reticence concerning the names of the "ladies" and "gentlemen" who participated in the meet to which we have alluded.

The account in the *Northern Echo* opens with the statement that, "The extraordinary antics of a hunted fox provided the members of the Zetland Hunt with what is regarded as one of the most remarkable runs in recent years." The fox led the hunt into the streets of Darlington, and "it was not until an hour's skirmishing that Reynard was run down in a backyard," where he made for a shed and hid in one of the drawers of a table. "From here he was carried before hundreds of interested spectators for some distance, when he was released, but his spell of liberty was short, as the hounds, with furious yelping, closed on him." We wish to draw his Lordship's special attention to that last sentence, because as an example of paraphrastic misdescription we venture to say it would be difficult to excel. What actually happened to Reynard, according to eye witnesses, was very much otherwise. Instead of being given a chance, says one of them, a huntsman took him "by the scruff of the neck and deliberately dropped him among the whole pack of hungry hounds, which tore him limb from limb in the most horrid fashion." "The huntsman dropped the fox into the midst of the hounds," says another, "and that was its chance of liberty. The poor brute, who had put up such a splendid fight for liberty, torn to pieces in front of schoolchildren, who are taught to be kind to dumb animals." And all round were "ladies" and "gentlemen" on horseback!

What does Lord Zetland think of it? What is he going to do about it? This is not to the credit of sport, but to the shame and degradation and revolting brutality of it; slaughter so fiendish as to make a Terra-del-Fuegan butcher in his shambles sick at the thought of it. Surely the name of Zetland, or, indeed, the name of any English nobleman or any Englishman or Englishwoman, ought not to be attached to a Hunt where these horrible conceptions of sport prevail, and we ask his Lordship to institute an inquiry and make his condemnation strong and clear to the Master of the Hunt, whoever he may be.

"JOY DAY."

OLD AGE PENSIONER'S LUCK.

February 8th was a notable day in the life of Mr. T. Wardler, of Hayes, for, to use a sporting phrase, he "brought off a treble"—1st, he attained the age of 70; 2nd, he became entitled to the State pension of 5s. a week; and, 3rd, he lost a pension of 4s. 11d. For 42 years he had been a servant of the Great Western Railway Company, thus gaining the third-mentioned item, his wages never exceeding 21s. Then, just as he anticipated "touching" the extra five shillings, he received the following letter from the Engineers' Department of the Company:—

> I beg to inform you that the pension of 4s. 11d. now paid you will be withdrawn on February 8th, when you reach 70 years of age. If you have not applied for State pension, please do so at once.

We are credibly informed that Wardler is in no way cast down. He has been able to save a few thousand pounds out of the handsome wages he received while in the employ of the Company, and it is a source of satisfaction to him to know that the 4s. 11d. he used to receive from them will go into the pockets of the poor shareholders, who, no doubt, have suffered lately from the wicked strikes of his fellow-workmen. He thinks of investing the extra penny a week in the Company's stock, as a slight mark of his gratitude to his old and benevolent employers.

Your Football Skill may win you £1,750. Final Coupon this week.

THE DANGER ZONE.

MARCHING ORDERS FOR GENERAL BOTHA.

In a recent issue we spoke of "The South African Red Light," and expressed our considered opinion that "South Africa was let off the Imperial leading strings a little too soon." By the time our words reached the Transvaal, the country was in the throes of a renewed outbreak of industrial revolt. In a later number we expressed our grave misgiving at the spectacle, at the same time owning to a deep mistrust of "Brother Boer." Then came the first consignment of "deports," and again our protest went forth against the action of the Union Government, which we held to be both offensive and ineffectual. In the absence of uncensored information, we purposely refrained from expressing a detailed opinion upon the local aspects of the problem.

THE FACTS.

The need for reticence would appear to be removed. The Union Parliament has learned the Government's point of view from General Smuts, a Cambridge-trained Boer who glibly proclaims the sentiments of the less facile Botha. The Labour position is already sufficiently apparent. It is clear that an industrial outbreak of sinister magnitude had for some time been brewing, when hostilities were precipitated by the "retrenchment" of workers upon the State Railway system. Trade union organisation in South Africa has attained remarkable solidarity, and it would not have been difficult for the leaders to "hold up" the trade of the country. Moreover, the tiniest spark would have served to fire the combustible material which is always to be found in abundance upon the Rand. The lurid memory of the scenes enacted in Johannesburg last July were fresh in the minds of the Union Ministers. They were determined at all costs to prevent a recurrence of *sabotage*, and if possible to restrict the area of disaffection. In thus stating the Ministerial position we are anxious to do full justice to their intentions, and we ignore for the moment the wider racial and political considerations which doubtless contributed to their stern resolve.

THE REMEDY.

Everyone is now familiar with the details; the proclamation of martial law, the mobilisation of armed burghers, the arrest of the Labour leaders, the detention of suspects, the armed siege of the Trades Hall, and finally the deportations carried out secretly and at dead of night. These things have passed into history. Their immediate effect was somewhat striking. Responsible journals have proclaimed their complete success, and have complimented Botha upon his "short way with Syndicalists." Eminently peaceable folk have expressed a pious wish that we had "a Botha over here" to squelch our Larkins and to throttle our MacDonalds. We cannot share their enthusiasm. We are haunted by a phrase of Sir George Askwith's—"A strike is never settled until it is settled right."

THE TRUTH.

We doubt if there is a man in the Boer junta at Pretoria who possesses a sympathetic understanding of the South African Labour problem. Since their advent to uninterrupted power, labour disputes have not been settled—they have been crushed. There is no bond of sympathy or trust between the disgruntled proletariat and the Ministers of State. Moreover, there is a growing suspicion in the mind of the white worker that Botha is "out" to crush trade unionism, and that the dividend-mongers of the Rand are privy to his plot. The widespread credence lent to this view is a material factor in the prevailing unrest.

THE CURE.

It is doubtful if the Boer leader will ever regain the confidence of the South African democracy, but he is bound in loyalty and honour to make the attempt. He is the King's first Minister in the newest of his Majesty's dominions, armed with well nigh unlimited authority. The suppression of disorder, actual or prospective, is but the least part of his Imperial duty. His task is to sift the rights and wrongs of the industrial conflict which is a standing menace to the peace and prosperity of South Africa, and then without fear or favour to deal out British justice with an even hand. Only so should he be permitted to retain his portfolio as a Minister of the British Crown.

THE EMIGRATION LIE.

LIFE 'NEATH THE SOUTHERN CROSS.

Concerning the tactics of Australian emigration agents in London, a correspondent expresses himself with more force than delicacy. "Through their lies to me in England," he writes, "I lost £20 and wasted 2½ years in their rotten country." In 1910, he applied to the Victorian Government for an "assisted passage" to Melbourne, receiving a loan of £12 for his passage money, £2 8s. of which he was required to return on receipt of his boat ticket. It was agreed that the balance should be repaid within five years, and meanwhile should bear interest at 5 per cent. Upon arrival in the colony, our correspondent, who was then only 18 years of age, set out to find employment, apparently without any effectual aid from the immigration authorities. Their promises of assistance were, it seems, of the pie-crust order. He found, moreover, that the prevalent industrial conditions bore little resemblance to the highly-coloured pictures of the emigration officials at home, at whose instigation he had hazarded the voyage. His experiences are best summarised in his own words:—

> When I landed I had £20. After knocking about Victoria, mostly out of work and living from hand to mouth, I decided to try New South Wales. It was just as bad, and at last I was only too glad to work my passage back to England.

So back in England he arrived, penniless and sick at heart. His parents, who had been dubious of his venture, were, happily, able to afford him temporary aid, else must his situation have been pitiable indeed.

The emigration officers of the Victorian Government are now pressing the unfortunate fellow for repayment of the balance of the original loan, only one instalment of which he was able to discharge while abroad. They will scarcely carry the matter to the point of legal proceedings, seeing that our correspondent was an "infant" at the date of the contract, and thus escapes liability. Moreover, we fail to see that they have any sound moral claim. If the facts are as stated, and we see no reason to doubt them, the young man was lured on by glowing promises of prosperity, and then left shamefully in the lurch. His story accords well with our insistent warnings against the blandishments of emigration officials. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. We have done our part.

COLLINGS' CACKLE.

A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO WANTS A NEGATIVE.

Some time ago we criticised certain undertakers who prowled around hospitals touting among the bereaved for funerals. The latest case of undesirable canvassing—not quite so bad as that by the ghouls referred to above—to be brought to our notice concerns Mr. Keturah Collings, of 7, Lower Seymour Street, Portman Square. He describes himself as portrait painter and photographer, and one of his ways of obtaining business is to watch the obituary announcements in the newspapers, and then get into communication with a member of the family. Here is one of his canting letters, sent to a lady who had just lost her father:—

> Mr. Collings desires me to write and express his sympathy in the loss you have so recently sustained. He trusts that later on you will call and see his new Gallery in Lower Seymour Street, his recent Portrait work from photographs has reached a very high standard.

Enclosed with this "letter of sympathy" was a booklet entitled "From the Shadowy Past." It is written by a master in the art of appealing to the bereaved—indeed, it is a sort of artist's tract. The purpose of the whole thing, however, is made clear on the last page, "Why not *send now the photograph?*"

In our opinion this is a very objectionable form of canvassing, and one, moreover, which, if not checked, is liable to startling development. People who have lost a parent, a child, or a dear friend have some claim to silent respect from outsiders. Collings' "letter of sympathy" is nauseous. Instead of sending him a print, bereaved relatives should send him a negative.

New Picture Competition. £10 and 300 Handsome Prizes Offered. See this week's "Mary Bull."

DOGS—AND OTHER BRUTES.

A PREMIUM ON CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

A case at West Bromwich induces us to warn the humane public never to give their dogs to strangers to be "put away." The evidence was that a man named Mould, of Oxford Road, Smethwick, asked the defendant if he would destroy the dog, and he agreed to do so, being paid sixpence for his trouble. Subsequently he told Mould he had destroyed the dog, and this is what he had done: He had thrown the poor animal down a manhole 20ft. deep, where, when a passer-by "heard the faint sound of a dog barking," it had been for several days. "It was in a pitiable condition," its back and legs being injured, so that it could hardly stand; while it was nearly starved to death. It was so bad that the police had it destroyed.

In the opinion of the West Bromwich Magistrates 10s. and costs belonging to one brute was sufficient to pay for the long agony of the other.

It is difficult for us to speak with restraint of cases like these. The thought of that poor dog, thrown alive down the manhole, whining in its pain, and feebly barking for the succour which came for its broken limbs and starved body only after many days, and then came in the form of a merciful death, makes us sick at heart; while the ludicrous inadequacy of the punishment inflicted by the Magistrates on the callous human biped who did it for sixpence raises our gorge to an extent which makes the nice balancing of words and phrases of criticism seem a mere complaisance of inhumanity. How comes it that offences so trivial as to have become ludicrous—offences without moral guilt—offences which would be wiped off the Statute Book of the realm if poverty were not a crime—are punished so harshly, while offences against innocent children and helpless animals are almost pooh-poohed out of court? Even rabbits and hares, pheasants and partridges, preserved for no other reason than that they may be slaughtered for the sport of the leisured and well-to-do, receive a protection from the law and those who administer it, which is almost sacrosanct compared with that accorded to the little children who love us and the animals who render us their humble service in work, and fidelity, and companionship.

Assaults on children, cruelty to animals—search through all the erratic annals of administered "justice," and you will find there is no class of cases where the punishment makes so light of the crime. To sleep under the stars, to be abroad with empty pockets, to steal a penn'orth of coal to warm starving bodies, to trespass in search of game or rabbits, or take or destroy stray game or rabbits off the public highway—these are terrible offences indeed, deserving of condign punishment; but to belabour a pit pony with a coal pick, to ill-treat a horse till it drops down dead, to subject a cat to fiendish tortures, to throw a dog down a 20 foot manhole, breaking its limbs and leaving it to starve to death—these are cases for ten shillings and costs, or even five shillings if you "bear a good character" and are extra lucky in your magistrates.

"REST" FOR THE WICKED.

A "FAIR COP" AT BURNLEY.

Arnold James Middleton, the bogus theatrical agent, had a very short run after the exposure in our issue of December 27th. He was apprehended at Burnley, the place to which we had traced him, and was there charged with a series of heartless frauds upon young girls. It will be recalled that his *modus operandi* was to advertise in theatrical papers for chorus girls, offering them 30s. a week. In every case he demanded a fee in advance. The worst part of the fraud, however, was that he invariably instructed the poor applicants to proceed to some distant town where there was a mythical Theatrical Company, and once there they were, of course, stranded. His sentence of six months' imprisonment with hard labour was well-earned—especially as it was proved that he had previously been convicted of embezzlement. In mitigation of punishment, strangely enough, it was urged on his behalf that he was a married man living apart from his wife, and was of superior education!

VEXING THE POOR.

THE COST OF "IMPROVEMENTS."

A Wolverhampton shell-fish salesman, employing the apt *nom-de-plume* of "Cockle Joe," informs us that despite the perishable nature of his wares, which should exempt him from the pedlar's licence, he has been required to pay half-a-crown to the Town Clerk for a permit to pursue his humble calling. The impost appears somewhat oppressive, seeing that he uses no truck or barrow which might conceivably cause obstruction, but merely carries a basket from door to door. Neither does it appear that the honest fellow is in any sense a nuisance to his neighbours, his business being largely confined to public-houses, by the proprietors of which he has been treated with unfailing kindness. In these circumstances it is regrettable that the local authority should have so far turned a deaf ear to his plea for consideration.

Upon looking into the matter, we find that the licence "for sale out of market" is imposed under the authority of the "Wolverhampton Improvement Act of 1869," an antiquated enactment which has more than once been used to the detriment of humble traders in the borough. Indeed, it appears that costers, hawkers and other itinerant salesmen have been proceeded against with such ruthless vigour that they have for the most part forsaken the town. The fact that many classes of provisions are now 25 per cent. dearer in Wolverhampton than in the neighbouring city of Birmingham is believed to be mainly due to the Council's policy in this regard.

Be this as it may, we are by no means pleased to learn that a shell-fish dealer, pursuing his trade in the manner of our correspondent, was recently fined 5s. and 12s. costs by the Wolverhampton Bench.

"Cockle Joe" is determined to pay the licence money rather than contest the matter at the police-court. His reasons are a little disquieting. "If I must be skinned," he says, "I will take the lesser evil, and pay the Town Clerk 2s. 6d. instead of the lawyer's 6s. 8d., as in our local court a poor man is not allowed to speak for himself."

"GAS" MANTLES.

A FLIMSY FAKE BLOWN UPON.

The concern calling itself the International Novelty House, of 1, Rue du Général Haxo, Nancy, France, to whose activities we referred in our issue of February 7th, does not seem to be abating the fervour of its hunt for the "five dollars," or £1 18s., for trial orders for its specialities. "Tenta" powder, a substance alleged to make incandescent mantles more durable, seems to be its most pressed production; and we are afraid that, despite the handbill "A Certain Proof of the Superiority of 'Tenta.'"—such proof being a dozen testimonials bearing merely initials, and devoid of names or dates—those who are foolish enough to send money to the Noveltyites will find the goods left, unsold, on their hands. Ever since the invention of the incandescent mantle, preparations have been placed on the market for increasing its efficiency and durability, none of which has, we think we are correct in saying, achieved any marked success, though they have been cordially welcomed by the various gas companies, eager for aid in their fight with the electric light corporations, and have been rejected with reluctance when proved worthless. "Tenta" is certainly unlikely to supply the proverbial "long felt want," for the General Manager of the Gas Light and Coke Company, writing as recently as February 6th, says:—

> Samples of "Tenta" powder have been submitted to this Company from numerous sources, but I regret to say that, after systematic and exhaustive tests, the powder proves to be of no value as regards improving the strength of Incandescent Mantles.

We hear that one or two of the so-called agents have experienced difficulty in getting the goods for which they have paid. The matter is complicated by the Noveltyites sending the stuff from Cologne, and apparently having conscientious objections to filling in official forms when their customers take up with the Post Office the matter of the delay.

After Football try "Bullets." Over 5,000 Cash and other Prizes weekly.

A PARSONIC PHARISEE.

THE VICAR OF GALLEYWOOD AND THE GALILEAN.

In a recent issue we screened a great deal of natural human heat behind the flippant contempt with which we treated a letter which had been sent by the Rev. E. N. Dew, Vicar of Galleywood, in reply to the request of a woman of his parish that he would appoint a day for "churching" her. From inquiries we had made it appeared the woman had loved not wisely but too well some four months before she married, and it was after the birth of her child in wedlock that she requested the Vicar to fix a day for her churching. "I am sorry I cannot church you to-morrow," replied this professional exponent of sanctimony. "Your child is the child of sin, although it may be legitimate in the eyes of the law. You have not, as far as I know, shown any sign of penitence for what you know to be sin, and the churching service is not suitable for such cases." In respect of our remarks on his pharisaic epistle the rev. gentleman now requests that he may be allowed to make some observations. They begin with a contradiction of our statement that the woman has to go into the world to earn bread for herself and child, and if we have been misinformed on this point we correct it. The other observations germane to the matter are that "The prevalent idea that a woman must not appear until she has been churched is one of those things fondly invented by man for which the Church is not responsible," and that "the birth in this case was the result of sin, and scarcely a matter for public thanksgiving." Such is the defence and justification of the Vicar of Galleywood for an epistle which, in our opinion, would be a disgraceful production for a gentleman, and is a thoroughly un-Christian one for a minister of the Gospel.

The First Stone.

Almost invariably, when religious professors of the type of the Rev. Mr. Dew are called on to justify the sacerdotal formalism by which they inflict some flagrantly un-Christian act on a parishioner, they throw themselves on the authority of "the Church." The God of infinite mercy, the Christ of infinite charity, are pushed roughly aside as having little or no concern in the business. In this case we do not believe the rev. gentleman *is* justified of the Church; but even if he were, we would point out to him that though the Church speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, she becomes as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

The case of this woman, says the rev. professor, is scarcely a matter for public thanksgiving. When the Scribes and Pharisees brought to Christ the woman taken in the act of sin it was scarcely a matter of public thanksgiving, but there a sublime charity which the Vicar of Galleywood does not understand, and apparently has not heard of, rose to the occasion in the splendid challenge: "Him that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. . . . Hath no man condemned thee? Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more." With that great example and authority available for his guidance, the Vicar not only thinks it his duty as a religious minister to shy at this woman of Galleywood the first stone but a dirty clod. What a gentleman! What a Christian!

"The Church" and its Master.

We should have thought the woman was a fit subject for churching in every way. We should have thought she was a subject whom any Christian minister would have welcomed for churching as a shepherd welcomes the return of the lost lamb to the fold. He says she had shown no signs of penitence. What was this desire for churching but a sign of penitence? The child had been "conceived in sin" but it was born in wedlock. Wasn't it clearly in her mind that she had sinned, that she had come safely through her travail, and that she would thank God?

Is she to stand in the market-place for public stoning? Is she to be scourged naked through the streets, the Vicar directing the ceremony with a Bible in one hand and a leathern thong in the other? Let the holy man tell us. What does "the Church" demand? Is she to go to private confession, that he may first examine her soul? Is this what he means? We say his epistle to this woman was cruel, uncharitable, and repellent to Christian faith and truth and need.

JUSTICE DENIED.

NO REDRESS FOR LOSS OF AN ARM.

A fifteen-year-old lad, named Henry Taylor, recently applied at the Worcester County Court for compensation in respect of injuries sustained in the course of his employment. The boy was said to have been engaged as a lever-dresser, and while tending a machine was interrupted in his work by another lad, Fuller, employed in the same shop. In some way or other, Fuller seems to have prematurely set the machine in motion, with the result that Taylor's arm was caught and so badly crushed that amputation became necessary. There was no dispute as to the facts, it being admitted that but for Fuller's intervention the accident would not have occurred. It was clear, however, that the accident arose "out of and in the course of" Taylor's employment, and his claim to compensation appeared unanswerable.

However, it was contended that Fuller had no right to leave his place in the shop or to approach Taylor's machine. The lads were, it was said, engaged in a chat about football matters, which obviously had no relation to their employment. But for Fuller's improper "loafing" around his friend's working place, the machine would not have been accidentally started and the mishap would have been averted. This plea, devoid, we believe, of legal validity, was accepted by the learned judge, and Taylor, though with earning capacity permanently impaired, was deprived of compensation.

His Honour's decision looks very like a harking back to the doctrine of "common employment," which the Workmen's Compensation Acts were intended to abolish. It is now settled law that a worker is entitled to compensation even though his injuries may be directly traceable to the improper act of a fellow employee. This suggestion should, we think, have sufficed to dispose of the contention that Fuller was acting wrongfully at the time of the accident and that Taylor was thereby deprived of his remedy. Had Fuller been the applicant, the case might have been different, though even contributory negligence is not held sufficient to deprive an injured workman of compensation.

ROBBING THE POOR.

MONEY SNATCHING IN THE COURTS.

The Home Secretary, who is said to be busy with a brand new measure relating to magisterial procedure, will do well to review the principles, if such there be, governing the assessment of costs in connection with police proceedings. A Lancashire correspondent relates an experience which suggests the necessity for drastic reform in this regard. On a recent Sunday morning, he sallied forth with various appliances for the snaring of wild birds, a form of "sport" which is, he assures us, perfectly legal within the County Palatine. Unfortunately for himself, however, he stumbled across the border of a neighbouring shire, where the Wild Birds' Protection Act operates with unswerving rigour. A chaffinch and a lesser redpole having succumbed to his wiles, a policeman appeared upon the scene to charge him with transgression of the law. Pleading innocent intent, he was promptly escorted to the nearest police station, where a copy of the outraged enactment was produced for his inspection, and a few days later he was summoned to the Stockport Police Court to answer for his offence. He pleaded guilty, and was fined five shillings—*with eleven shillings costs.*

The man had clearly infringed the law, and it was doubtless proper that he should incur meet punishment. It was his first offence, and a fine of five shillings would seem to have been an appropriate penalty.

There was, however, no shadow of excuse for trebling the burden of this impost by the addition of inflated and, we take leave to suggest, artificial—costs. It is inconceivable that the conduct of so trumpery a prosecution should have involved the authorities in an outlay of eleven shillings, and upon this assumption the imposition of such a levy was an abuse of criminal process. We repeat that the whole question of the assessment of costs in petty prosecution calls for the active intervention of the legislature.

Are you collecting the Pen Coupons on page iii. of cover?

BILLY'S TROUBLES.

17, New Bridge Street, London, E.C.
February 1st, 1914.

Dear Billy my Lad,

"What is it?" your letter pathetically tails off. Why is it, indeed? Your business prospects are as gloomy as an out-of-work actor's, and your salary rises are so infrequent you have to use a Memory-Training System to remember the last one.

Oh, you're like scores and thousands of fellows in business you're in fact, the real root of all your trouble is just that you are exactly like 'em. You are honest, sober, industrious, quite decent, have had a good average business training, and know your particular work from A to Z.

But all these things won't hoist you out of the ruck, because they are the ruck—because these things are the uniform pattern of the swarming rank and file of the business army. You don't distinguish the rest by a single button out of place or a knot in your necktie. Of course, if you know the business goose-step a bit better than the rest of the Tommy Atkinses in the office army, put an extra polish on your honesty-sobriety buttons so as to catch the eye of your counting-house corporal, you may get an extra good-conduct badge added to your other trimmings every few years, and the few extra pence they earn.

But I suppose you want something more, and something quicker than that, my boy; and there isn't any reason whatever why you shouldn't get it.

But first you've got to make yourself worth it. You must know all there is to know of your own section of the biz, and soak up as much of the other sections that touch it as your system can absorb.

You grumble, under your breath, that you don't get a chance to show your ability. That's pure tosh, old son. Any live man in any office nowadays is falling over chances every day of his life. But he doesn't recognise them because he's not really looking for them, and so they slide past.

A Chance, or an Opportunity, in an office, doesn't go round beating a big drum and calling attention to its existence. Some people apparently think that any well brought up Opportunity comes on like the heroine of a Sadler's Wells bellowdrama, and sinks down in the centre of the stage shrieking, "Catch me, catch me," while the orchestra plays twiddley music, and the limelight man turns a hundred-candle power spot-light full on her.

Opportunities don't act that way. Plenty of them may be hovering unobtrusively round your business all the time, but disguised as Daily Incidents, or wrapt up so well in Routine Activity that they're apt to escape arrest.

Get the Harmsworth Business Library and read up all it has to say about your own business first. I recommend the Harmsworth Business Library particularly because I know that although you can get separate text-books on business letter-writing, and filing systems, and book-keeping, and all that, the Harmsworth gives you all these but scores of other things.

When you get on friendly terms with your Harmsworth Business Library it's astonishing what a lot of ordinary things you find have the Opportunity tag. The H.B.L. puts you in the way of seeing all sorts of common workaday jobs to pieces and worrying out how they wouldn't be better built on the H.B.L. plan.

The same Business Library is on the table in front of me as I write, ten handsome-looking volumes in the neat Combination Book-case and Writing Desk that you get with them—and, Billy, I don't begin to tell you how much those books have been to me, how absolutely invaluable they are to any man who is keen to get on in business and lift himself out of the £2 or £3-a-week mob. I consult them constantly for information on things I run across in my business. The way they are arranged and indexed and cross-referenced makes it as easy as eating peas with a knife to get at the item you want. The information is concise and clean-cut, and yet somehow it is full and exhaustive and gives you everything you want without superfluous trimmings.

Not to mention that, there are articles in these volumes that are inspiring and stimulating to one's energy and ambition. They are written by the men who have earned the right to their say-so too. Every contributor to the Library is a top-notch No. 1 expert in his own special line. Take the vol. on Advertising and Publicity, for instance. It is prepared by Thomas Russell, President of the Incorporated Society of Advertisement Consultants, and contributed to by a string of men like the Advert. Director of the *Daily* —, the Advert. Manager of *The Times*, of Kodak's, and other big advertising firms, as well as Hassall, the poster artist, and other experts in their own lines.

Always remember that every word in these books is written by busy men whose success and position in the topmost twigs of the money-trees has been the reason for their being asked to contribute. Don't fancy that all these big gun names give you nothing but high-falutin preaching about the Dignity of Business and Extracts from Emerson, and gilt-edged texts and the Old Captain-of-Industry-style pressings on How I Got On and Got Everything that wasn't screwed down.

First, last, and all the time, Harmsworth's is a Business Library, and it amputates every item that isn't useful, cold, matter-of-fact boiled down Essence of Business.

It is packed with just the information you want and details of all the complexities of every kind of modern business.

It is a marvel, and no man with any shadow of a pretence of a wish to get on in the game can afford to be without it.

The price is so low and the subscription terms so easy that the poorest City clerk can't say that he isn't able to afford it. And the chances are that any man will soon make himself worth more, and get a rise that more than covers the small subscriptions, and, don't forget it, the increased salary runs on after the subscriptions have finished.

If you WANT to get on; if you want to do more than grumble about not having chances; if you want to make yourself worth more—go now, right away, and fill up the coupon at the bottom of the page where I have had this letter printed.

Your Old Chum and Well-Wisher,
A Thousand-a-Year Man.

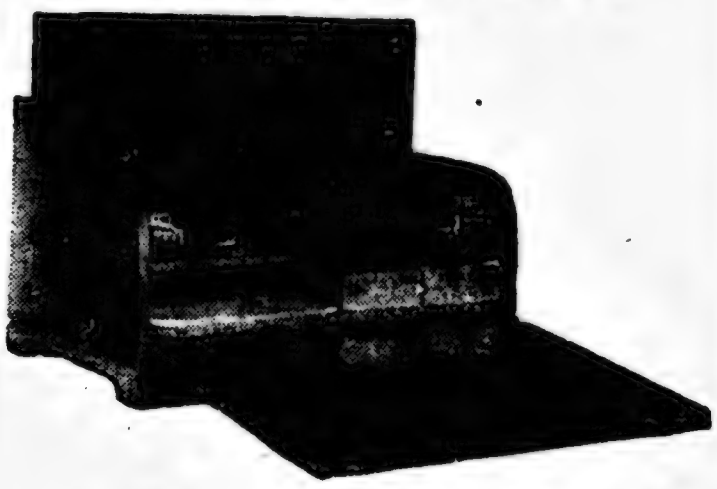
READERS OF "JOHN BULL"

are offered this beautiful Oak Bookcase and Desk

FREE

if they will subscribe for the 10-volume

Harmsworth Business Library.



As you glance through the fascinating pages of the Harmsworth Business Library, you will realise that business is not a sort of treadmill affair, allotted to you as a life punishment, but a fascinating prize competition in which the most valuable prizes in the world are to be won by skill, industry and fearlessness.

You will feel that here is a personal message to yourself, showing how, by your own brain and backbone, you can reap the rich rewards of the commercial arena. You will learn the most valuable business secrets of men who have risen from poverty to affluence, from obscurity to power, from the bottom rung of the business ladder to the top.

Fill up and send us the coupon below. You will receive free of cost a beautiful booklet giving you full particulars of these money-making and salary-raising volumes.

COUPON FOR FREE BOOKLET.

To the EDUCATIONAL BOOK Co., Ltd.,
17, New Bridge Street, London, E.C.

Sirs,—I should like to receive full particulars of how to obtain FREE a Combination Book-case and Writing Desk with the Harmsworth Business Library, both to be delivered to me on first subscription of 2s. 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Occupation .....

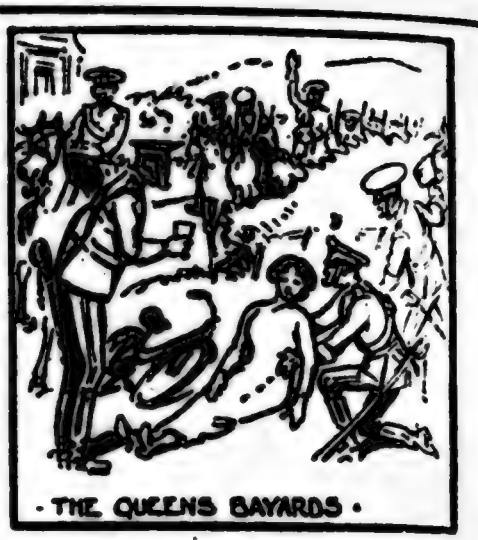
J.B. 8.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

Despite his patron's "sympathy,"
Still in his lonely cell
Sits David Davies. Now, we see,
He has the King's as well.

The *Chronicle* takes up the part
Of Macbeth's murderous wife,
And tries to steel the Premier's heart,
To taking Ulster's life.



The chivalrous Queen's Bays [illegible]
A lady faint and fall,
Assistance lend her, and deserve
[illegible] gratitude of all.

'Tis a reflection on Lord Claud,
Not Britain, we aver,
That he should have to hunt abroad
To find a manager.

To help the Government to score,
The Liberal chief contrives
To get the contests o'er before
The "Umgeni" arrives.

Since came the living picture shows,
For London's little boys,
The country, with its pigs and cows,
Has lost its former joys.

BLUFF AND BLUSTER.

A WORTHING WORKMAN AND A PHOTO FIEND.

Messrs. H. Taft and Co., Artists, of 6, Cleeve Mansions, Calvert Avenue, London, N., are still merrily pursuing the "dead relative" photo enlargement dodge. The details of the business are too hackneyed to need recapitulation. It is the old, old trick of a "free" enlargement upon agreement to purchase a showy frame, the cost of which is out of all proportion to the most liberal estimate of its value. A Worthing correspondent calls our attention to an instance which came under his notice. A working man, misled by the "patter" of a plausible canvasser, entered into an agreement to purchase a frame for 17s. 6d. He had paid 7s. 6d. when the framed enlargement was delivered, and so disgusted was he with the cheap and shoddy quality of the work that he determined to pay no more. He was shortly treated to a blue paper bearing every semblance of a legal document, and threatening County Court proceedings unless the balance of ten shillings were at once remitted. He will be well advised to ignore this impertinent communication. Messrs. Taft have already been well paid for their work, and will, we fancy, be slow to invite the attention of a judicial tribunal. Should legal proceedings result, we shall be interested to learn the judge's view of the *quasi* judicial form with which Messrs. Taft have seen fit to clothe their threats. A colourable imitation of official forms surely approaches contempt of Court.

THE TALKING SHOP.

Walk up, walk up! It's open again,
Walk up, and take a seat;
We've curios from Wigan and Wales,
And freaks from Downing Street;
Each one will stand on his own hindlegs
And through the lobbies walk,
Though not much good in a business way
They're guaranteed to talk.

Walk up, walk up! It's just begun,
The wonderful Talking Shop!
And each exhibit is backed to go
Till he (or you) shall drop;
We've got 'em from Peebles, Pudsey, Perth,
Crewe, Colney Hatch, and Cork,
They're not the brainiest lot on earth,
But, bless you, can't they talk!

Walk up, walk up! and hear them prate
Like human mocking-birds,
No one can touch 'em for wasting time,
With miles of useless words;
They're not what you might call picturesque,
But most of 'em can squawk,
You can't accuse 'em of common sense:—
But, goodness, can't they talk!

RICHARD.

Result of our No. 10 Football Contest. Winners on page 5.

£600 COMPETITION

1205 CASH PRIZES.

1st PRIZE - £100.		2nd PRIZE - £50.	
3rd Prize - -	£25	100 Prizes of - -	£1
4th „ - -	£15	100 „ - -	10s.
5th „ - -	£10	1000 „ - -	5s.

To introduce the Regesan Toilet Articles it has been arranged that £600 shall be distributed through Boots, The Chemists, as prizes in a word-making competition. This competition has been promoted at enormous expense, with the sole idea of inducing the public to try Regesan Toilet Articles, knowing that they will appreciate their many excellent qualities, and that it will lead to their large and regular use.

It is a simple, interesting and instructive competition, in which everyone has an equal chance of winning a prize. All you have to do is to make as many words (*of four letters or more*) as you can from the eighteen letters forming the words

Regesan Toilet Cream

Here are a few examples :—**Magistrate—Great—Time—Sane.**

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

There is no entrance fee, but competitors must attach to their list a receipt for one of the following Regesan Toilet Articles, which can only be bought at the different branches of Boots, *The* Chemists. The quality of Regesan Preparations is so excellent that Boots have no hesitation in giving their unqualified guarantee.

Only receipts for articles purchased between February 16th and March 9th will be accepted.

Regesan Toilet Cream 10½d. and 1/6.
Regesan Shaving Stick 9½d. Box of 7 Regesan Shampoo Powders 9d.
Regesan Tooth Paste 9d.
Box of 3 Tablets of Regesan Toilet Soap 1/3
Regesan Hair Tonic 1/11 & 3/9
Regesan Brilliantine 9d. & 1/4

Any of the above articles will be sent post free on receipt of remittance. Address—Regesan, Ltd., Toilet Department, Trent Street, Nottingham.

RULES OF COMPETITION.

Lists of words must be written on one side of the paper only, and each sheet must bear the competitor's name and address at the top.

The total number of words made must be marked on the first sheet of the list. In the event of a tie the neatest and clearest list will take precedence. Should there be a tie between the number of words sent in and also a dead level in the neatness and clearness, then the judges reserve the right to divide the prizes.

In previous competitions of this nature, competitors possessing elaborate and expensive dictionaries have had an unfair advantage, as it enabled them to include practically unknown and highly technical words. The judges, therefore, in making their awards will use only the following three dictionaries—Nuttall's, Collins, Chambers' 20th Century. All of these can be obtained at any of Boots branches, at a cost of under 3s., and are excellent representative dictionaries of the English language. Only words contained in these dictionaries will be counted. Proper names and words of three letters or under must not be used.

No employee of Regesan Ltd., or of Boots, *The* Chemists, will be allowed to compete. No competitor can win more than one prize.

Entries, with receipt attached, must be received by March 9th. Any arriving after that date will be disqualified.

Prizes will be paid on March 31st. List of Prize-winners will be published in the *Daily Mail* and *Daily News* of that date.

Entries must be addressed to—"REGESAN LTD., TRENT STREET, NOTTINGHAM."

Mark your envelope :—"COMPETITION."

CLOSING DATE MARCH 9th.

The following gentlemen have kindly consented to form a Committee to award the Prizes :—

G. GODLEY, Esq., Advertisement Manager "Daily Mirror."
R. LEE, Esq., Advertisement Manager "Daily Telegraph."
H. SIMONIS, Esq., Director "Daily News" and "Star."

The counting will be under the supervision of an independent firm of Chartered Accountants, whose certificate will be published with the list of winners. The decision of the Committee must be accepted as being final.

The Regesan Toilet Articles are

SOLD ONLY BY

Boots THE CHEMISTS

Issued by Regesan, Ltd.

A STAFFORDSHIRE SCAMP.

TIPTON TWISTER TRAPS A TARTAR.

The impudence of William Haddon, "Wholesale Stationer, Tipton, Staffs," is almost incredible. Our readers will remember that he is one of those practising the "dumped goods" trick—that is to say, he sends to tradesmen, absolutely unsolicited, a quantity of picture postcards, and then proceeds to bombard them with invoices and threats of proceedings for the recovery of the alleged value. For the purpose of terrorising his victims, he calls in the aid of "The Mercantile Agency," of 33, Hopkins Street, Tipton, who send out a printed form which runs:—

> We have been instructed by Mr. W. Haddon, Publisher and Stationer, of Tipton, to apply to you for the undermentioned account, and request that payment be made to us by 10 a.m. on Saturday next, failing which will mean placing the account to (*sic*) our Solicitors for proceedings to be taken.—Yours truly, MANAGER.

Beneath the last word appears a flourish of the pen, which may mean an initial, by intention or otherwise illegible. The whole form is very suspicious, and we shall be glad to know who comprise the Mercantile Agency.

One of our correspondents, who refused to be "had" and demanded to know by what authority Haddon had sent the postcards, received the pretty little missive we have quoted. Rightly treating it with contempt, he then was sent three somewhat similar printed communications, headed "final notice" and informing him that a summons would be issued "without further notice or delay." These having no effect, Haddon tried another bluff, sending his pretended customer an invoice, bearing the additional words: "As you did not pay for these goods, our solicitors have this day issued a summons against you, and you now have another 7s. 8d. costs to pay." This lie being equally unsuccessful in extorting the money, the Tipton twister in despair wrote, on yet another invoice form:—

> Please return the above goods at once, for which we enclose 4d. postage. These must be returned as sent at once, otherwise we shall place the matter in the hands of *the police*.

Our correspondent is, of course, under no obligation to take the trouble to return Haddon the unordered goods—if that unworthy wants them he should send for them. We should very much like to see what would happen were the threat to place the matter in the hands of the police carried out. We fancy the biter would find that he had been bitten!

In any event, Haddon is a disgrace to Tipton, he bringing its traders into disrepute, and should be drummed out of the town. If many of the persons upon whom he attempts to prey were to treat him in the manner detailed above, he would soon be ruined by postages.

THE WARRIOR'S MASTER.

GETTING READY FOR THE GERMANS.

The new business spirit installed at the War Office has not reached outquarters as yet. The Army Service Corps in the Ipswich District, in view of the landing of German troops in the near future, are making ready. Here is the copy of a circular letter sent to one of our readers:—

> Your name having been given to me as a Pensioner, will you please inform me hereon if you would be willing to serve with the Army Service Corps in the event of Mobilisation being ordered. The principal duties required to be performed in this event would be mounted duties (namely, Transport Services) with the Army Service Corps. You would be required to serve with the Army Service Corps Harwich Coast Defences. It is presumed that you are not already holding a Government appointment.

This document fell into the hands of the warrior's wife—the third one by the way—and she promptly dealt with it. "It's going to JOHN BULL," she told her husband, "that's where it's going to." Then she sat down and wrote us a letter, from which we find that her husband is 81 years of age, served in the Crimea and Mutiny, and retired from active service in 1866! Taking all things into consideration, she thinks her old man has done quite sufficient. We quite agree—especially as he has had the pluck to get married three times.

WORKMEN'S WRONGS.

WHERE IS THE LABOUR PARTY?

The exact definition of an "accident" has presented untold difficulty to pundits in Workmen's Compensation law, and a recent decision of Judge Ruegg, at the Longton County Court, will inevitably add to the existing confusion. A house decorator applied for compensation in respect of serious injury to his eyes, due, he alleged, to the use of a special paint from which noxious fumes were emitted. The vapours had attacked his skin, setting up acute inflammation, and he had, it was stated, been totally blind for more than a week, and for a much longer period had been incapable of following his employment.

Upon these facts the learned judge held that the poor fellow was not entitled to any compensation whatever his injuries, though directly traceable to his employment, not being due to an "accident" within the meaning of the Acts. It is true that certain "industrial" diseases give rise to a claim for compensation, but the particular malady here disclosed, described by the doctors as "dermatitis," is not "scheduled" for this purpose. In these circumstances the applicant's claim was dismissed, and he will enjoy no solatium in respect of pain and loss, which, but for the nature of his employment, he would never have incurred. Assuming the correctness of the judge's interpretation of the law, the case is one of many in which workmen with the strongest moral claim to compensation have been deprived of their rights by the imperfections of the Acts.

In a second case, from the same Court, it was, we fear, not so much the letter of the law as his Honour's judgment which was at fault. The Florence Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., applied for the revision of an agreement with a workman who had fractured an arm in their employ. It had been found necessary to amputate the limb, and the man was thus permanently disabled. He had, however, been offered work in a coal pit as driver of a haulage motor. On the workman's behalf it was urged that he had undergone three operations in respect of his injured arm and that his "nerve" had thereby been seriously impaired. He complained, moreover, of considerable pain in the "stump" of his shortened limb. In these circumstances it was submitted generally that he ought not to be put to work in a coal mine, and this contention was enforced by the suggestion that the pit in question had a "dangerous" reputation. An enduring Compensation Award was sought, a doctor expressing a considered medical opinion that the applicant was unfit to resume underground employment. Judge Ruegg, however, turned a deaf ear to these cogent reasonings, and directed that the compensation allowance payable to the injured man should summarily cease. In so deciding, his Honour appears to us to have flatly ignored the plain equity of the situation. Meanwhile, workers would do well to press for an amendment of the law which would preclude the possibility of such denials of justice. Where *is* that "Labour" Party, whenever there is practical work to be done?

"UNDERGRAD" OADS.

WHERE A HA'P'ORTH OF MANNERS SHOULD BE TAUGHT.

Several music-hall artistes who were playing at the Gaiety Theatre, Cambridge, recently, complain of the treatment they received from a gang of "'Varsity men." It appears that the first house is always orderly, but the second is invariably the opposite. Students from the University combine to make the performance almost impossible. Artistes are pelted with sugar, stale meat, cigar ends—and even more objectionable articles. Now, we put it to the manager of the theatre that the artistes have a right to his protection; and to the code of students who act in the manner indicated that it is not at all unlikely that one or more of their number will be dealt with in a drastic manner, should they persist in their outrageous conduct. This is no new scandal in 'Varsity towns. A member of our staff was present two or three years ago at a representation at Oxford of a pantomime, the artistes in which were also treated in a gross fashion, the ringleader in the outrages, though, being what is known as a "chorister."

£1,750 waiting to be won this week. Final Coupon. See page 31.

COME TO ME
and I will give you
HEALTH

I will give you even more than HEALTH if perfect Fitness and Mental Energy is as valuable to you as it is to everyone else. I know I can cure your ailments and make you successful, as a healthy person must be.

THE records of my Health Institute prove this. No matter who you are or where you are I want to know you so that I can show you the only possible way to quickly, easily, without the slightest inconvenience and quite inexpensively attain that perfect, joyous health and fitness, superabundant energy and clear-headedness, that keenness for thought and action that will make you a new being.

THE SANDOW SYSTEM of Psycho-dynamic Therapeutics is the direct result of the discovery that enabled me to apply gentle physiological exercises to the cure of over thirty of the most prevalent ailments and health troubles.

THE SANDOW SYSTEM is successful because it is logical. It is certain to succeed, because it is NATURE CURING HER OWN ILLS. I NEVER ACCEPT A CASE FOR TREATMENT THAT I CANNOT CURE OR PROMISE TO GIVE GREAT HEALTH BENEFIT. THAT IS WHY I TELL YOU TO COME TO ME.

If you are over-stout and flabby come to me. I build up a vigorous constitution as well as removing your fatty burden. If your digestion is wrong and distorted with neglect, come to me to be fitted with a cast-iron one. If your nerves are jarred and jangled let me give you the keen concentration that sets you ahead of all the others. If you feel exhausted or "dull," if your liver is out of order, if your lungs, heart, and kidneys are not in perfect condition as they should be, come to me for **HEALTH.**

Lastly, if you are not a real, live, vigorous, mentally and physically efficient, upstanding man I will make you one. If a woman I will make you healthy, graceful, perfectly figured. If you are a parent there is no fairer investment for your children than a short course of my treatment, which sets them up, straight-limbed and in perfect health.

Read what those who have accepted my advice say, and ask yourself why you hesitate.

"Nerves much stronger."

"I am free from rheumatics."

"Sleep sound and dreamless."

"Feeling stronger, quite energetic, and sleep

"Original weight 12st. 4lbs., present weight

General condition greatly improved."

"Feeling very fit; reduction in weight 2st."

Medical man said how much stronger

I feel sure you would like to know

has done for me; age 71."

18151.—"As the result of a thorough examination by a Medical Man yesterday he was able to inform me that he could now pass me as a first-class life for Insurance purposes."

17389.—"I am no longer lame, for which I am truly thankful."

17981.—"The physician my daughter is under is quite satisfied with the improvement to her spine."

84,212.—"The Medical Board has passed me. They were astonished at the expansion—4 inches—and said you were the benefactor of the British race."

17852.—"It is a treat now to do anything hard. I exult in my feeling of health. Work is a pleasure. Your course has opened up new life for me."

18899.—"I am passed fit for India."

17761.—"My Doctor tells me I am a different creature."

19,106.—"Able to stand daily work with much less fatigue."

19,128.—"Am feeling aggressively healthy."

THE SANDOW SYSTEM is not a theory. It is an established, perfectly-working method of psycho-dynamics that I direct personally to every individual patient. **I HAVE A SPECIAL SYSTEM OF PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE-INSTRUCTION FOR YOU** if you will undertake my system in your home. I have a magnificently-equipped Institute for you if you prefer to carry it out there, but either way I will give you Health and Energy if you will write to me or call and see me.

Why do the cleverest doctors come themselves and send their patients to me for Health?

Why did that famous journal, "TRUTH," investigate my methods; and why were they able to report 94 per cent. complete permanent cures, and 99 per cent. "wonderful health improvement"?

Why do Society Leaders, Politicians, Public Men, Medical Men, Army Officers, Doctors and Actresses, Singers and Professional Men, Clerks, Mechanics, and Industrial People come to me?

Why is my System of Physiological Therapeutics the most successful and the most important in the whole world?

The reason is that the **SANDOW SYSTEM** does not merely give you a brief period of health exhilaration, it cures permanently.

MY OFFER TO EVERY "JOHN BULL" READER.

WRITE TO ME AS SOON AS YOU CAN and I will show you how to commence my system in your home at once. I MAKE NO CHARGE FOR A PERSONAL POSTAL CONSULTATION and for a specially written letter of advice, which may enjoy the same privilege of free consultation if you call.

I will send you a specially illustrated book on whatever ailment or complaint you suffer from. These are free to all enquirers.

My Health Library covers every one of the following subjects:—

Indigestion
Constipation
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Circulatory Disorder
Skin Troubles
Lack of Vigour
Physical Development
Rheumatism and Gout
Figure Culture for Women
Anæmia
Physical Deformities
Boys' and Girls' Ailments

Write for the volume you require—I will send it FREE on receipt of Coupon given here.

FILL IN AND POST THIS FORM TO MR. SANDOW.

To Mr. EUGEN SANDOW, 32, St. James's Street, London, W.

DEAR SIR,—Please forward me the volume from your Health Library dealing with.....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

AGE .....OCCUPATION .....

J.B. 21-2-14. HOW LONG SETTLED.....

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

HUMAN DOCUMENTS.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of human derelicts whose cases, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

CCXCII.—"TOGETHER NOW FOR FORTY YEARS."

"Darby" is 68 years of age, by trade a compositor, but long ago he was thrown on the scrap-head because of failure of eyesight. "Joan" is 70, and is confined to bed with paralysis. She is in receipt of the Old Age pension, and she wants us to render some little additional assistance so that she and her husband shall not be parted after being together for forty years. The man has been suffering from his eyes nearly eight years, but he has managed to do odd jobs to eke out their scanty means. The old couple have one son, who is a window-cleaner. His earnings are not more than 20s. a week, but even out of this he gives his aged parents a few shillings. The old couple think that if they can get a little assistance they will be able to keep their "home"—one room—together until such time as "Darby" gets his Old Age pension. The couple are of excellent character, and well deserving of help. They have never had relief from the Guardians, and their greatest horror is that they may be forced by circumstances into "the House." Who will help them?

CCXCIII.—A CASE FROM THE COUNTRY.

The wife of a farm labourer makes an appeal to us for assistance. It is true she did not ask for financial help, but after going fully into the case we have come to the conclusion that money is what is really needed. Her husband was served with a County Court summons in respect of a doctor's account. The amount was not disputed, but with all the will in the world, although a small monthly payment was ordered, it has been impossible to keep it up. And no wonder; for there are nine in the family—husband, wife and seven children, whose ages range from 10½ years to 18 months. The man earns but 18s. a week, out of which he has to pay the National Insurance money and 4s. 4d. the weekly rent, leaving only 13s. 4d. for the nine of them! The poor woman explains—and her economy and frugality are vouched for by the Vicar of her parish—that if she had even this small amount actually clear she would probably be able to manage upon it. She is, however, heavily handicapped by small debts, unavoidably contracted during times of illness, and every week she is called upon to pay something on account of them out of her husband's pitiful earnings. Will our readers help to give her a fresh start? About £10 would clear up everything, and make the family quite happy.

CCXCIV.—A GOOD MOTHER HARD PRESSED.

Sixteen years ago the subject of this paragraph was left a widow with nine children, totally unprovided for. After getting over her first loss she bravely set to work, determined that her children should be brought up without the aid of the Guardians. In the first place she qualified for midwifery, eventually obtaining a post in a distant town, to which she removed her home. This had one drawback—she had to leave behind her the eldest child, a girl of 18, who was a shop assistant. In a few months' time this daughter returned to her mother, broken in health and about to become a mother herself. The girl was tenderly cared for during her trouble, but two years afterwards she died from consumption, and the baby followed her a fortnight later. The next boy enlisted in the Grenadier Guards, and after serving two years died at Windsor, also from consumption. Two other lads tried to pass for the Army; one was rejected as medically unfit, the other is now with his regiment in South Africa. Another of the children, a girl, went into service. After being there three months she returned to her mother suffering from heart disease; she was never able to work again, and died a year ago. As regards the other five children, none is able to help the mother to any extent, though they are all out in the world doing for themselves. The mother, who has struggled so hard for them, is living in two rooms with her invalid son. This case was brought to our knowledge through the poor woman being victimised by one of the many "Bale" tricksters. She has had a hard struggle to keep things going all these years, and we think she deserves a helping hand.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We have received the following, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCLXXIX.—"Little Johnnie," 8s.

CCLXXXV.—Mrs. W., parcel; "Alas," 2s. 6d.

CCLXXXVII.—"Jack Shay," 2s. 6d.; H. M. H., 6d.; "Hopeful," 1s.; "Jennie," 1s. 3d.; "Unemployed," 2s.; "Poor Woman," 2s. 6d.; W. E. C., 6d.; E. M. W., 2s.; E. H., 1s.; "Beaumont," 4s.; M. E. L. B., 1s.

CCLXXXVIII.—"Jack Shay," 2s. 6d.; A. W. M., 1s.; "Dick," 1s.; "Jennie," 1s. 3d.; "Nemo," 1s.; "Hard-Up Generally," 2s. 6d.; D. E., 2s.; "Poor Woman," 2s. 6d.; "Anonymous," parcel; M. E. L. B., 1s.

CCLXXXIX.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; P. J. C., £5; "Randol," parcel; N. B., 1s.; "Elaine and Arthur," 2s.; F. H. B., 10s.; I. C. S., 4s.

CCXC.—Mrs. J. H. G. (New York City), 7s.; "Elaine and Arthur," 2s.; G. E. M., 6d.; "For the Kiddies," 21s.; Mrs. A. W. W., 2s. 6d.; "Constant Reader," 1s.; "S. A. Soldier," 2s.; "Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; P. J. C., £5; R. E. B., 1s.; "Commercial," 1s.; "24," 3s. 4d.; J. E. C., 6d.; "Insurance Agent," 1s.; "Recipient," 2s. 6d.; A. C. M. A., £1; "Les Bon-Bons," parcel; H. M., 5s.; A. P. P., 10s.; A. E. R., 2s.; M. L., £1; R. W. E. W., 5s.; "Tom," 2s.; "E. Shea," 2s.; J. S., 2s. 6d.; A. R. V., 6d.; E. M. H., 4d.; P. W. S., 5s.; L. D., 2s. 6d.; "Asy," 2s. 6d.; F. E. D. (Stafford), 1s. 6d.; A. T. B., 5s.; S. G., 2s. 6d.; Reader," 5s.; G. H. W., 2s.; J. W. E., 2s.; N. B., 1s.; F. M. B. M., 3s.; "In Sympathy," 5s.; R. A. D., £1; "Elstow," 1s.; "Kettering," 6d.; F. E. D., 5s.; "Sympathetic," 1s.; S. O. S., 2s.; F. M. B., 2s. 6d.; "Not Lloyd George," 2s. 6d.; "Glevum," 1s.; "One Who Has a Dear One With Cancer," 2s.; I. C. S., 5s.; "Valentine," 2s. 6d.; E. J., 1s.; "Lucky Beggars," 2s.; A. A., £1; W. C., 1s.; J. D. (Leeds), 5s.; A. M., £2.

CCXCI.—"Ivy Mary," 2s. 6d.; P. J. C., £5; C. N. H., parcel; R. W. E. W., 5s.; A. A., 10s.; A. B., 3s.; C. B. R., parcel; "Thin-Skin," 2s. 6d.; R. R., 10s.

We have divided £10 from the JOHN BULL Derby Sweepstake Charity Fund between CCLXXXIX and CCXC.

We have also apportioned £10 from the JOHN BULL Football Cup Sweepstake Charity Fund as follows:—CCLXXXVII, 5os.; CCLXXXVIII, 5os.; and CCXCI, £5.

COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work.

LONDON.—Mrs. Jessard, "Baptist's Head," St. John's Lane, Smithfield, 4s. 6½d.; Mr. H. Saunders, "Bricklayers' Arms," Charlotte St., 3s. 8½d.; Mr. R. S. Tolputt, "The Crown," Crown Court, Fleet St., 1s. 6d; Mr B. Levett, "The Cobden," Berger Rd., Homerton, £1 3s. 6d.; Mr. W. Blenzberg, "Prince of Wales," Lea Bridge Rd., Clapton, 9s. 6d.; Mr. W. H. Partridge, 133, Lessingham Av., Upper Tooting, 1s. 6½d.; Mr. E. H. Gilbert, "The Crown," High St., Kensington, 1s. 6d.; Princes Theatre Staff, Shaftesbury Ave., 8s. 11d.; Mr. J. Goldstein, "Bedford Arms," 1, Sandland St., 2s. 7d.; Mr. H. Parr, "Coach and Horses," Matthias Rd., Islington, 1s.

CROYDON.—Mr. G. Heath, 19, Church St., 2s. 6d.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. F. J. Hewitt, Crown Hotel, Blackfriars St., Salford, 4s. 6½d.

Total £3 6s. 10d., which we have divided equally between Nos. CCLXXXVII and CCLXXXVIII.

Readers resident in Scotland may now Enter our Football Contest.

How to Completely Overcome
THE TOBACCO HABIT

These testimonials, with photographs, are but a few of the multitude that have been and are being received. The full addresses will be sent to anyone who desires to investigate. Book and full particulars FREE from Edward J. Woods, 10, Norfolk Street (306 T.A.A.), London, W.C.

ALL DESIRE OR CRAVING IS REMOVED for Pipe, Cigars, Chewing Tobacco, Cigarettes, Snuff.

I offer a genuine guaranteed remedy for tobacco or snuff habit in 72 hours. It is mild, pleasant, strengthening. Overcomes that peculiar nervousness and craving for cigarettes, cigars, pipe, chewing tobacco, or snuff. Tobacco is poisonous and seriously injures the health in several ways, causing such disorders as nervous dyspepsia, sleeplessness, gnawing, or other uncomfortable sensation in stomach, constipation, headache, weak eyes, loss of vigour, throat irritation, heart failure, lung trouble, loss of memory and will power, heartburn, torpid liver, loss of appetite, bad teeth, foul breath, lassitude, lack of ambition, weakening and falling out of hair, and many other disorders. It is unsafe and torturing to attempt to cure yourself of tobacco and snuff habit by suddenly stopping—don't do it. By my method you can quickly and easily give up tobacco and enjoy yourself a thousand times better while feeling always in robust health.

STOP RUINING YOUR LIFE

FREE

My FREE book tells all about the wonderful 3 days' method. Inexpensive, reliable. Also Secret Method for conquering habit in another, without his knowledge. Full particulars, including my Book on Tobacco and Snuff Habit, posted in plain wrapper, free. Address: Edward J. WOODS, 10, Norfolk Street (306 T.A.A.), London, W.C

Weight Regained.

Mr. G. H. EVANS.

Swansea, writes: "I take great pleasure in letting you know that your C Treatment has entirely cured me of the Tobacco Habit. My wife and children are full of praise for you. I may tell you that in the five months since I took the three days' Treatment, I have gained 22 lbs., and I feel a hundred per cent. better in health."

Used a Dozen Weekly.

Mr. T. START.

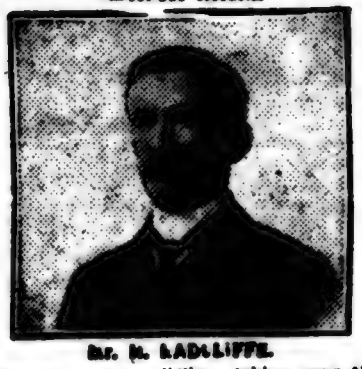
Dogdyke, Lincoln, writes: "Your treatment for the Tobacco Habit is truly wonderful, and I am pleased to say it has completely cured me. I used to smoke regularly from seven to eight ounces of tobacco per week, but since taking your Treatment I have not had the slightest craving for it, and am much better in health."

Ceased After Two Days.

Mr. W. H. JOHNSTONE.

Aberdeen, writes: "Some 14 months ago I sent to you for your Tobacco Treatment, and when I received it I followed the instructions closely, and in two days lost all craving for a pipe or cigarette. I have been smoking for twelve years, on an average of 4 ozs. per week, in addition to numerous cigarettes, but I can say now your Treatment does all you claim for it."

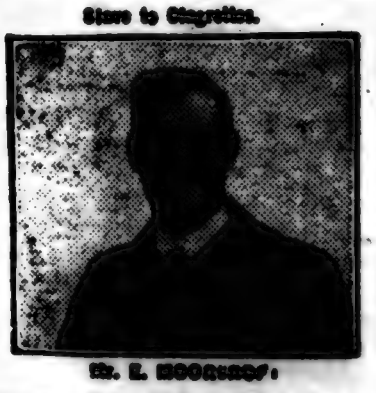
Marvellous Results.



Mr. R. RADCLIFFE.

Pontypridd, writes: "Since taking your three days C Treatment I have lost all desire for tobacco in every form. I have been relieved from all my trouble to a triumph in life through the aid of your remedy. In conclusion I beg to thank you for inducing me to take your excellent C Treatment, the results were a marvel to me."

Slave to Cigarettes.



Mr. E. HOCKNEY.

Liverpool, writes: "I am pleased to tell you that your Treatment is all that you claim for it: after taking a few doses, smoking was reduced to a farce. Now I am entirely free from any desire to use tobacco in any form. After using cigarettes for the last 20 years it is a change for which I am very thankful."

Eyesight Improved.

Mr. A. HIGGINS.

Harraby, Perth, writes: "Your C Treatment has worked wonders, having been a heavy smoker for over 20 years. I may say that after your three days' Treatment the craving for tobacco left me. My health is much better, I am a hearty eater, my sight is much better, I have more energy for work, and altogether I am a different man.

A Victim of Snuff-taking.

Mr. R. H. RUTHERFORD

Surrey Street, Hull, writes: "About ten years ago I took a pinch of snuff to ease the toothache, and slowly but surely I became a victim to the dirty habit of snuff-taking. Since using your C Treatment I have not had the least desire for snuff or smoke. Your C Treatment is all that you claim for it."

The British Library

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

[This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.]

To His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Dear Primate,—I confess to some degree of admiration, as I note the neat fashion in which you have managed to evade the sharp issues of the Kikuyu controversy. You will not take it upon yourself to determine whether or no Church "order" was infringed by that historic communion service in far East African wilds, and you have therefore referred the whole question to an episcopal committee. I have no doubt the charge of "heresy" against the Bishops of Uganda and Mombasa will be most patiently investigated and that much learned profundity will mark the proceedings of the conclave. I am tempted to wish that a little local colour might be imported into the affair by the presence of a few of the "niggers" in whose supposed interests all the fuss has arisen. The scraps of Christianity they have contrived to mingle with their ancestral creeds would assort strangely with the ornate faith of the princes of the Church. What do you say to the idea?

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P.

Dear John,—So you are shortly to be transferred to the Board of Trade, and while, to be quite frank, you are hardly the man I should have chosen for the job—your commercial experience having been too limited—yet I trust you may manage to infuse some of your sturdy common-sense into the administration of your new office. There is some big work ahead of you, and you will need all the courage and pertinacity you can muster. Legislative effect must be given to the rules for safety at sea recently framed by the International Convention, and here you will be faced by manifold difficulties which I need not detail. Then, again, there are the wider problems of overseas commerce, in which our rivals—notably Germany—have already pointed the business way. Big railway trouble, too, has long been looming, and a crisis may swiftly be reached. In short, there's a strong man's work to be done, John. Off with your coat and start in!

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. Sir Edward Clarke, P.C., K.C.

Dear Sir Edward,—Sturdy Churchman as you are, you are no respecter of persons, as witness your recent reference to certain episcopal antics. When you see a bishop "going to Holloway Gaol to see whether it is hurting a criminal to be restrained by force from committing suicide," and another inquiring "whether a French actress at a music-hall is wearing sufficient clothing," you think they might both be better employed. *You* want them to tighten the bonds of Church discipline, which may be necessary for aught I know; and *I* want them to take a bigger hand in shifting the load of human wretchedness which mocks the beauty of their creed. You will not, I am sure, quarrel with my purpose. May you long be spared to voice your honest views.

John Bull.

To F. W. Hirst, Esq., Editor, "Economist."

Sir,—I hold no brief for any member of the Party hierarchy, but I like fair play. I am, therefore, bound to protest against the controversial methods you have thought fit to employ in your disarmament campaign. Quite recently, at the Manchester Reform Club, you went out of your way to impute "muddle" and "laxity of administration" to the Board of Admiralty, and then with gratuitous impertinence went on to declare that nothing better could be hoped for so long as the Navy was controlled by "a First Lord who preferred his yacht to his desk." For this cheap sneer you had, I submit, no shadow of justification. Of the defects of Party administration I am at least as conscious as yourself, but the present Chief of the Admiralty is doing his level best in circumstances of extreme difficulty, and should enjoy credit for his pains. Hit as hard as you like, sir, but keep above the belt.

John Bull.

To Messrs. Showell, Ltd., Brewers, Wolverhampton.

Gentlemen,—A word as to the interesting discovery of the Borough Analyst that you have been selling beer containing more arsenic than is good for your customers. In one sample I noticed there was a thirtieth of a grain, and in two others a fiftieth of a grain, per gallon of this renowned tonic; and as the Royal Commission has fixed a hundredth of a grain per gallon as a dangerous dose, I congratulate you on getting off with a fine of £10 and costs.

I must tell you that people don't want arsenic in their beer any more than they want it in their bread; when they do they will ask for it. Think of what might have happened, gentlemen, to a family who quaffed your ale not wisely but too well! Half of them might be down with pains in the digestion, while the other half was going round the house accusing the mutton, or the rabbit pie, or the sausages, or the fried fish, throwing suspicion on Mary Ann, or whistling for a policeman and a stomach pump. No, gentlemen, this sort of thing will not do. If I need it I would rather pay a doctor three-and-six for one of his bottles than twopence-ha'penny for one of yours. No doubt you would give more cordial for the money, but a teaspoonful of his three times a day would probably be safer. In short, if arsenic is going to get into your beer, you had better start as a drug store.

John Bull.

To his Worship the Mayor, Colchester.

Dear Mr. Mayor,—A Memorandum on the Employment of Children issued from the Police Office, presumably by the Chief Constable of your town, purports to "state in plain language" the restrictions on the employment of children under the Employment of Children Act, 1903, and the bye-laws of the Borough Council under that Act. If the real objects of the Memorandum had been to make the Act and the byelaws of the Council ridiculous they could not have been more effectively attained, for in one place I find parents are instructed in an elaborate time table as to when children under the age of fourteen may and may not run errands, clean boots, "etc." I also note that, while an ordinary tradesman is permitted to employ a child between 12 and 14 years of age for 24 hours a week, a barber may not employ him at all, even though the child is his son. Of my own knowledge I cannot say whether or not immorality is apt to get into the soap lather or infect the sweeping brush—but I am told that the barbers of Colchester regard themselves as living as righteous and as sober lives as the greengrocer, the butcher, the tallow-chandler, or the newsagent. According to the Memorandum, however, "a person will not be liable to a penalty under the bye-laws if he shows to the satisfaction of the Court that the employment in respect of which proceedings are taken is, or was, of a light or casual character"; but some of the magistrates in Colchester, Mr. Mayor—as well you know—are queer of their sort, and I should not be astounded to find that poor, hard-working fathers and harassed mothers, brought before their dread tribunal for employing their kiddies to fetch up the coals, wash up the "pots," or make a picture of the doorstep, were subject to moral admonition as well as a monstrous mulct for their heinous offences. It is perfectly true that child labour is an abomination when it become an oppression or an injury to health, but there is a difference between scratching one's arm and rubbing the skin off.

John Bull.

To the Licensing Magistrates, Guildford.

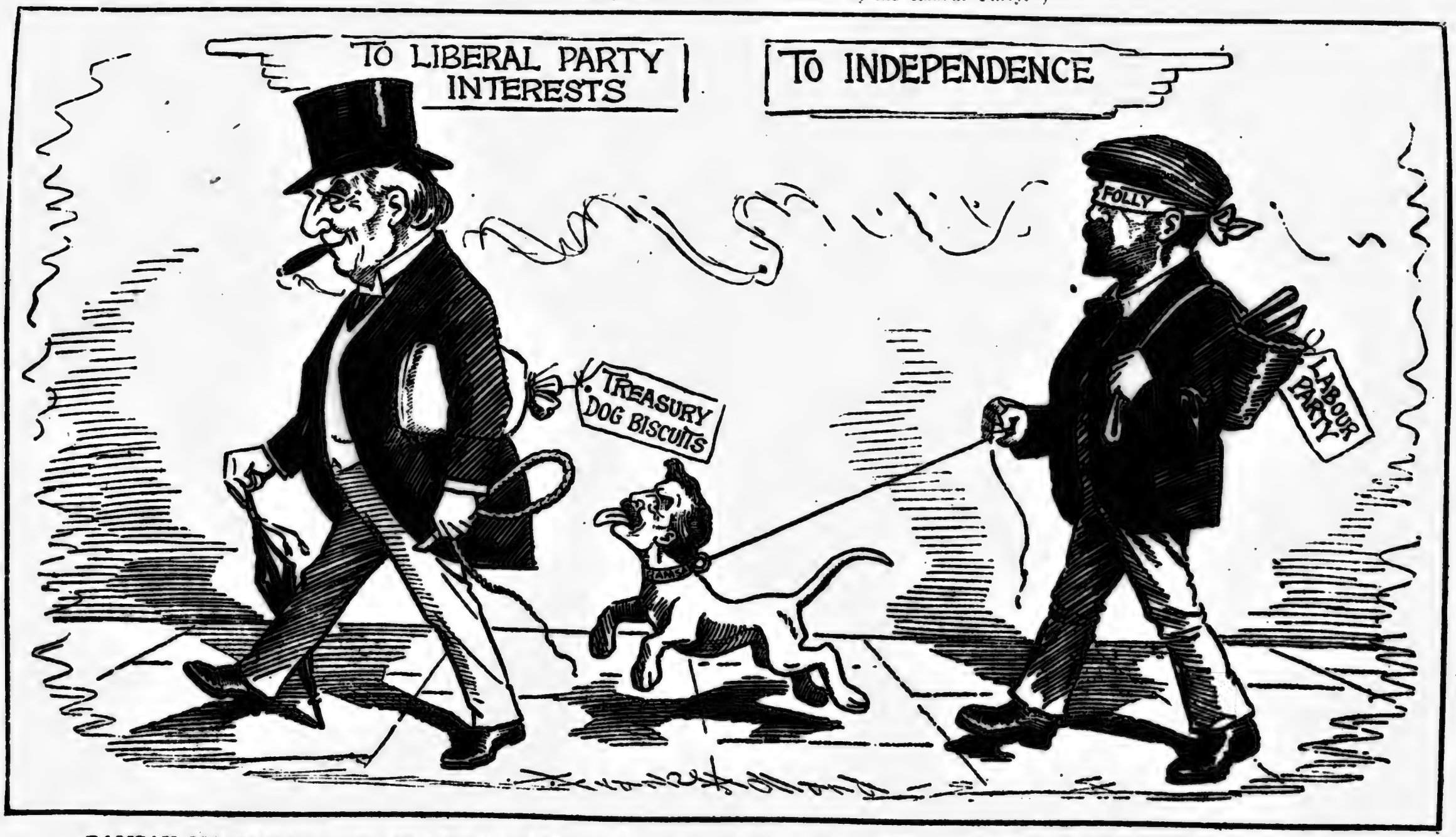
Gentlemen,—Let me hasten to congratulate your worships on behalf of the policemen of Guildford on the new condition you have made for the granting of music and dancing licences in the town. Under the rule that "Admission shall be given to members of the police force whether in uniform or not," they anticipate having a very good time. In the Metropolis I believe it is the practice for an inspector with a subordinate officer to pay visits only when in uniform, but in Guildford it is evident that the whole force is to be officially shunted on the free list. It is, of course, understood that the Chief Constable will expect a box, the Chief Inspector a stall, sub-inspectors and sergeants fauteuils, and plain policemen seats in the pit or gallery (early doors). May they take their wives and children with them, as they hope is the case, or must members of their family pay like ordinary persons?

John Bull.

£500 for Two or Three Words Offered and Won every week. See "Bullets," page 28.

SERVING TWO MASTERS.

(Ramsay MacDonald has again been elected "Leader of the Labour Party.")



RAMSAY MACDONALD (the sly "dog"): "Who said you couldn't serve two masters? Why, it's easy—you follow the one and lead the other!"

THE WESTMINSTER QUINTETTE.

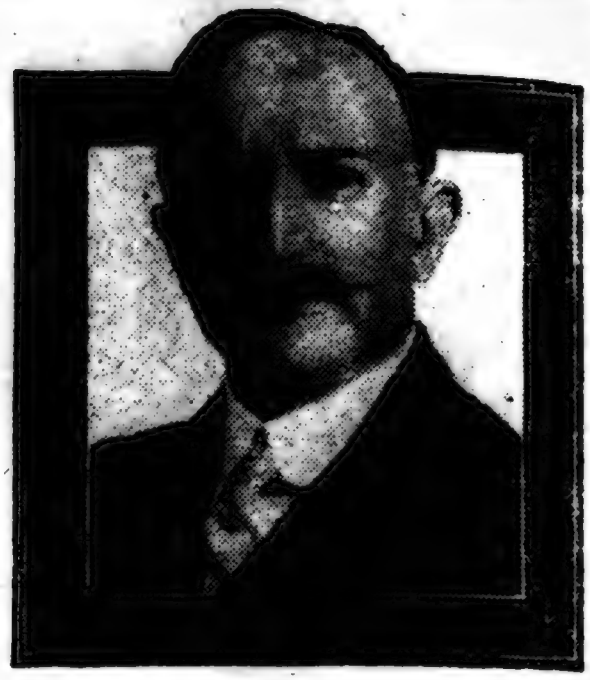
IN THEIR CELEBRATED PART SONG, "SHUFFLING THE CABINET."

Basso: Mr. JOHN BURNS; *Baritone:* Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL; *Tenor:* Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON; *Alto:* Mr. C. F. G. MASTERMAN; *Treble:* Mr. HOBHOUSE.

Tutti: Cabinet Ministers five are we,
Jolly fine fellows, as you may see
One and all we have gained our aim
By artfully playing the Party Game. . . .
Basso: Yes, artfully playing the Party Game!
Tutti: Step by step we have won our way
To the snug positions we fill to-day—
Risen from nothing to what we are,
Each a bright and particular star! . . .
Alto: Each a bright and particular star!
Tutti: Listen, and you shall hear us tell
Each the fortune that each befell,
When, *for the country's good*, you bet!
Asquith shuffled the Cabinet. . . .
Baritone: All for the country's good, you bet. . . .
Tutti: For the national good, you bet!
Tenor (solo): Long at the Board of Trade
Have I presided,
But little, I'm afraid,
The good that I did;
When with disasters England rang,
JOHN BULL declared I ought to hang;
I only laughed, or gaily sang,
When I was chided!
Tutti: He laughed, ha, ha! or gaily sang,
When he was chided!
Tenor: Five thousand pounds a year
The country paid me;
Some people called me dear—
Let them upbraid me!
I feel as happy as can be—
Lord Gladstone has resigned, you see,
Which means ten thou. a year to me!
This stroke has made me!
Tutti: Lucky dog!
Baritone (solo): Envious thoughts invade me! . . .
[*Musical contortions descriptive of envy.*
My luck is not so great,
But still, I'll not repine;
Who knows but if I wait,
Such fortune will be mine?
My rise is only half as much—
Five thousand's all that I shall touch!
Alto (solo): My screw, alas! remains the same,
But I must not forget;
I've reached (through my whitewashing game)
My goal—the Cabinet!
Basso (solo): No extra quids my pockets swell—
I just make way for Samuel.
Treble (solo): Long housemaid to the Cabinet,
I think I've earned a rise—
Young Samuel's vacant job I get;
I'm pleased, but still I've one regret—
The screw is small in size.
Tutti: Still, we're happy as we can be!
Cabinet Ministers five are we!
Jolly fine fellows, as you may see,
Working for wealth and fame!
One and all we have gained our ends—
But not one of us five pretends
Success on anything else depends
But playing the Party Game . . . !

A very interesting and instructive booklet by **Morley Adam**, fully illustrated, published at the nominal price of a penny by Messrs. Odhams, Ltd., 93 and 94, Long Acre, W.C., contains precise directions for the construction of wonderful models out of match sticks. The little volume will be a source of unending delight to children—and to many of their elders. Its title is "Toys and Models made from Matches."

A unique weekly journal devoted to the interests of the immense public which patronises picture theatres is *Pictures and Picturegoers*, published weekly, at a penny, also by Messrs. Odhams, Ltd. Profusely illustrated, and replete with amusing and instructive tales and articles, its remarkable popularity is fully justified.



Neuralgia, Debility—

"THE FINEST REMEDY."

Mr. A. TURTLE, 60, Camberwell Road, Camberwell, S.E., writes:—"I have received consid rable benefit from the use of 'Phosferine.' For some years I was troubled with neuralgia, and occasional attacks of nervous debility, and after trying several remedies about seven years ago I bought the first bottle o Phosferine, which I am pleased to say did me a lot of good. Since then I have made a practice of keeping Phosferine in the house, and whenever my wife or myself are feeling at all run down, we immediately take a course of this medicine (say about four or five weeks) which invariably cures me. I consider it the finest remedy for all nervous disorders."

PHOSFERINE IS A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Nervous Debility	Premature Decay	Anæmia
Influenza	Mental Exhaustion	Backache
Indigestion	Loss of Appetite	Rheumatism
Sleeplessness	Lassitude	Headache
Exhaustion	Neuritis	Hysteria
Neuralgia	Faintness	Sciatica
Maternity Weakness	Brain-Fag	Depression.

and disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

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Supplied by Royal Commands to—

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H.I.M. the Empress of Russia	H.M. the late King of Greece
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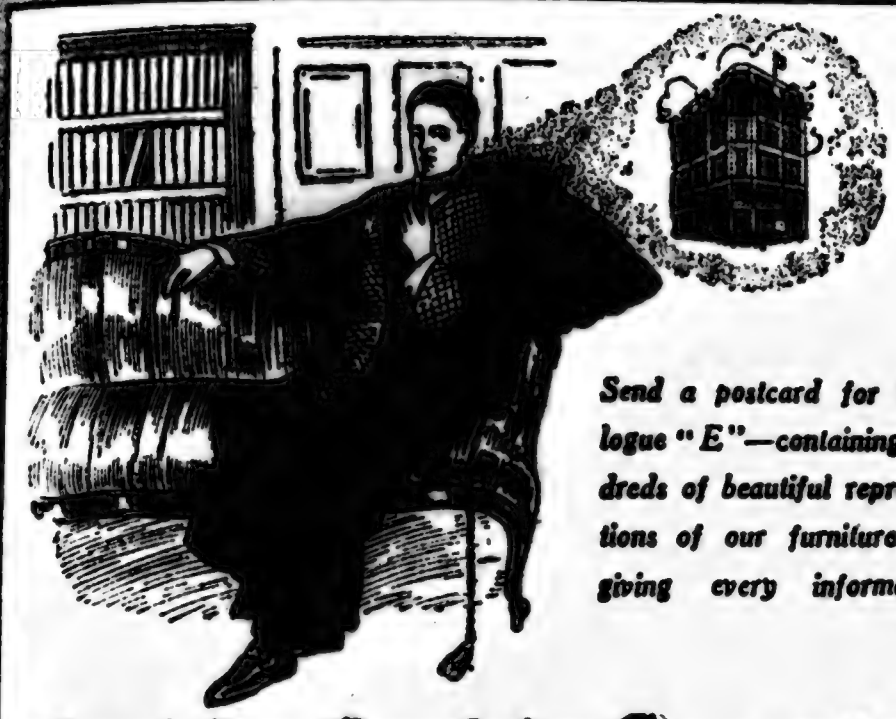
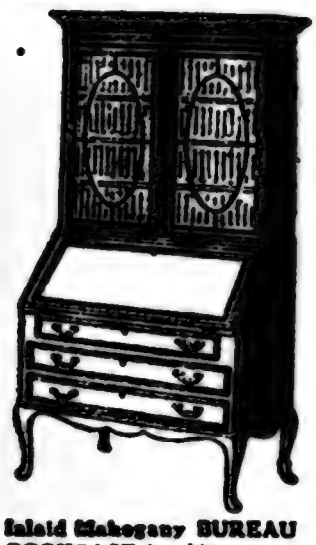
The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1 size.



Send a postcard for Catalogue "E"—containing hundreds of beautiful reproductions of our furniture and giving every information.



Inlaid Mahogany BUREAU BOOKCASE (as illustrated.)
£8 8s. 0d.

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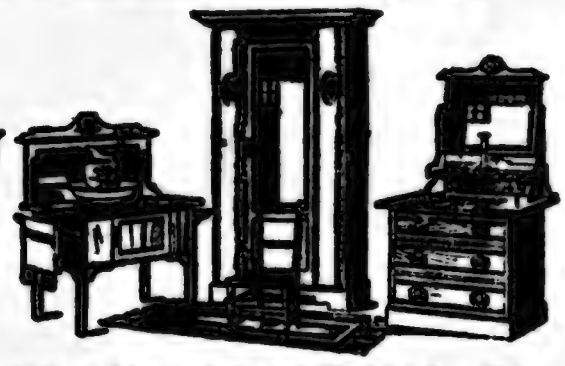
Always remember when about to buy your new furniture that **IT COSTS LESS AT THE HACKNEY,** because every bit of furniture we make is designed with a thought for the years of wear it will be subjected to. We like every piece of furniture that comes from our Saloons to give honourable service—needless to say our customers nearly always buy from us again.



Bedroom Suite in Solid Satin Walnut—Four Pieces Washstand fitted with towel airers and Wardrobe fitted with three-quarter length mirror and coloured glass side panels.

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(This suite can be polished mahogany if required.)

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A Beautifully Appointed Tea Room, Writing Room, and Lounge is now open to all visitors at our OXFORD STREET SHOWROOMS.

"Two two's o' gin."
"Whatever do ye want two for?"
"One's for another lady outside."
"I don't see her."
"No, 'corse yer don't—she's lying down."

THE FOOTBALL COURT-MARTIAL.

BREACH OF KING'S REGULATIONS.

The following announcement appeared in the *Belfast Evening Telegraph* of February 12th:—

> In reference to the recent court-martial held in Victoria Barracks on Lewis Richard Lewis, a private in the Dorsetshire Regiment, we learn upon inquiry that the presiding officer was not Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. Welman, of the A.S.C., as stated in the Belfast and some English newspapers, but an officer from Holywood, specially delegated for the duty by Army Orders. *It is to be regretted that Lieutenant-Colonel Welman's name was inadvertently used in connection with the presidency over the court-martial.*

What *are* we coming to when it is necessary to offer an apology to an officer for stating that he sat as President of a Court-Martial? We suggest there should be another Court-Martial in the 1st Dorset Regiment. Sergeant England, while executing his orders, wore civilian clothing. Here is what paragraph 1694 of King's Regulations says upon the matter:—

> Uniform will be worn by all ranks while on duty.

Sergeant England was performing a duty delegated by Major W. Sykes Banks, and has clearly infringed the regulation.

A MIXED MAXIM.

A Traveller was once lost in the Australian Bush. He wandered about aimlessly for three days until at last he saw smoke rising some distance away. Fearing savages, he approached cautiously on his hands and knees, and just as he reached the spot a voice exclaimed, "What the Hell do *you* want?" The Traveller stumbled forward crying hysterically, "Thank Heaven, I am among Christians!" and fainted away. Which shows that a soft answer is not worth two in the Bush.

THE TRIUMPH OF THE YANK.

Rail, rail! America, hail!
  Hail the land of the strivers!
Englishmen may drive our trains,
  But a Yank must drive the drivers;
England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales,
  Played out—don't even hum;
God's own country's got the show,
  Gee-whiz! she's going *some!*

Sleep, sleep! Britannia, sleep!
  Who was it said: Wake up?
Just you snuggle around and snooze,
  And lose the First Prize Cup;
P'raps you thought you were doing things,
  And all was right as paint,
Guess you thought you were still top-dog?
  Take it from me—you *ain't!*

"There's nary a first-class man of you
  That's coming to the front!"
Don't it tickle your pride to hear
  A thing so plain and blunt?
But how *can* you reach the front—
  Ain't it hanky-panky?—
When Lord Tomnoddy puts you back
  Behind his patent Yankee!

Rail, rail! English rails!
  Yankee brains to rule 'em;
Britons for the donkey work,
  Uncle Sam to fool 'em;
Hamilton has nosed around,
  Not a man could find,
Either England's number's up—
  Or Hamilton is blind!

Your Last Chance to Win our £1,750 Football Prize. Final Coupon this week. **See page 31.**

VITALITY OF YOUTH

FOR MEN WHO HAVE LOST IT.

The force that runs the human machine is stored in the nerves. This nervous energy, as it is called, is only another name for electricity.

If any organ of your body is weak and inactive, it means that the nerves which control it lack power. This must be restored before the affected part can perform its proper functions. It does no good to take drugs for such a condition as this. You can only effect a cure by replacing the energy that has been lost. Drugs are poisons—electricity is life.

Saturate your nerves with the glowing current from the "Ajax" Body Battery for an hour each day. The weak organs will respond to its influence in the same way that an electric motor starts whirling as soon as the power is turned on.

The "Ajax" is a self-charged Body Battery which generates a steady, unbroken stream of galvanic electricity, and infuses it into the nerves in just the right volume. It builds up vitality and strength, and cures all ailments resulting from a debilitated state of the nerves and vital organs.

Men who suffer from failing vitality, debility, or any of the usual weaknesses, will find that the "Ajax" Body Battery, together with electric suspensory attachment, will quickly put them in good condition. It is a natural remedy, and those who have used it will tell you that it does all we claim for it.

THIS IS FREE

We'll send you our Free Book, closely sealed, which tells all about the Battery, how it cures, and what it does. This book is illustrated, and explains many things you should know about the cause and cure of disease. If you want to be the man Nature intended you to be, send for the book at once. We have a book for women also.

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Whenever you find a Black Cat Cigarette with an *extra* Cat's head printed upon it, send it to us and we will pay you 2/6 cash for it.

There are thousands of Black Cat Cigarettes with this second head on them; they are part of our plan of checking the regular distribution of the millions of Black Cat Cigarettes which daily leave our factory. By finding these *double-headed* cigarettes and returning them to us you will be helping our checking system, and that is why we offer you 2/6 cash for each one you send. There is one other small condition—that you recommend Black Cat Cigarettes to five of your friends, nothing more. Full particulars are given on the red slip in each Special Black Cat packet.

Now then, smokers! make up your minds to earn plenty of these half-crowns. No matter where you live, every time you buy a packet of Black Cat keep a sharp look-out for the cigarette with the two Cats' heads.

Black Cat
CIGARETTES

Mild 10 for 3d. Medium 10 for 2½d.

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SEVERE INDIGESTION

Heartburn, Waterbrash, Flatulence and Headache. Made healthy and strong by Dr. Cassell's Tablets.

Not only health, but that fine, keen edge of health we call fitness, is essential to all who have to push their way in this world of strenuous activity. Mr. L. Webb, of Grosvenor Villas, Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, Stourbridge, a young man in a position of great trust, recognises that fact, and readily expresses his gratitude to Dr. Cassell's Tablets for the fitness they have restored to him. He says:—"I feel it is only right to let you know that I have derived great benefit from taking Dr. Cassell's Tablets when suffering from a bad attack of indigestion.

"My food did not digest properly, and I was much troubled with flatulence and headache, and quite frequently dancing specks would form before my eyes, in a strange, bewildering way. Another thing that troubled me greatly was that a sour fluid used to rise in my throat, hot and burning. Really it was like vitriol, so choking was its effect. I tried all sorts of things recommended to me by friends, but got no relief at all until in the end I took Dr. Cassell's Tablets. It was my mother who advised me to do so, and I don't know why I did not take her advice sooner, for she, I knew, had derived the greatest benefit from them. Anyway, I got Dr. Cassell's Tablets at last, and I can say that they put me right in a surprisingly short time. I am now as well and as fit as anyone could wish to be."

Mr. Webb, Stourbridge.

Dr Cassell's Tablets

strengthen and restore every organ of the body, re-establish the vital forces, give tone to the nerves, and generate new life for the whole system. They act more brilliantly than any other medicine known in cases of Nervous Breakdown, Nerve and Spinal Paralysis, Infantile Paralysis, Neurasthenia, Nervous Debility, Sleeplessness, Anæmia, Kidney and Stomach Disorders, Children's Weakness, and General Bodily Fatigue, Brain Fag, and all run-down conditions. They are quite safe for even the youngest child or most delicate invalid. All chemists sell Dr. Cassell's Tablets at 10½d., 1/1½, and 2/9, the 2/9 size being the most economical.

SEND FOR A FREE BOX.

Send your name and address and two penny stamps for postage, etc., to Dr. Cassell's Co., Ltd. (Box A24), Chester Road, Manchester, and you will receive a trial box free.

THE STRANGER AT THE GATE.

A MODERN PARABLE.

By G. S. Astins.

The Banqueting Room of the "Charity Brotherhood" glowed with warmth and comfort. A big fire burned cheerily, throwing a reddened glow over the rich carpet and massive ornaments. The table glittered with snowy damask and silver; and the exquisite vases, filled with great bunches of flowers, gave the finishing touch of beauty to the scene.

To-night they were to do honour to a great subscriber. Soon the guests assembled. The Secretary of the Brotherhood, and many other officials were there; all well attired, their rosy, plump faces showing that they were on good terms with the world, and well satisfied with the position to which the Brotherhood had called them.

The chief guest had arrived in a magnificent motor-car, and, divesting himself of his fur-lined coat, was received with deferential bows and much soft-soapy flattery by the Secretary. The subscriber was a thin man, with piercing eyes that flashed in a face of ashen-grey. A great diamond sparkled from a ring on his left hand, and a heavy gold chain of curious design was conspicuous beneath his dress coat.

Just as the dinner was about to begin, a knock was heard on the outer door. It was not loud, but something in the sound was arrestive and penetrating.

A servant said the Secretary was wanted immediately. He asked the company to excuse him, and was disgusted to find a man almost in rags, who had brought him thus peremptorily from the feast.

"Can you give me a shelter, and some food? It is a bitter night, and I am frozen through and through."

"No," said the Secretary, abruptly. "You must come to the Society during office hours; and then you must give us a week or two to investigate your case."

"But isn't this the 'Charity Brotherhood,' founded to help the poor? And I am homeless and starving."

"Yes; but we can't help everyone. We haven't much to spare after paying salaries, keeping up palatial offices, and prosecuting our inquiries. We have only a few shillings left out of every pound subscribed."

"Then what am I to do?"

"There's the workhouse; that's the only place for you."

The door slammed, and the stranger went away sorrowing. He looked up with troubled eyes to a great Cross that was emblazoned over the porch.

He went on down the snowy streets, passed great mansions and well-appointed villas, till he came to a row of small cottages. He paused for a moment as he saw a child huddled in a doorway. He touched her and whispered a word of cheer. The little one looked up, and for a space forgot her wretchedness.

Presently he came to a home where a light was burning. He knocked, and instantly the door opened.

"I am hungry and cold," he said.

The woman, poorly clad, who was sitting up with a sick child, said:

"Come in, and welcome. I am just preparing a meal. It isn't much, but we will share it."

And the stranger went in; and the mother felt a strange calm take possession of her; and at his words her sick child smiled, and the pain was swallowed up in peace.

* * * * * * *

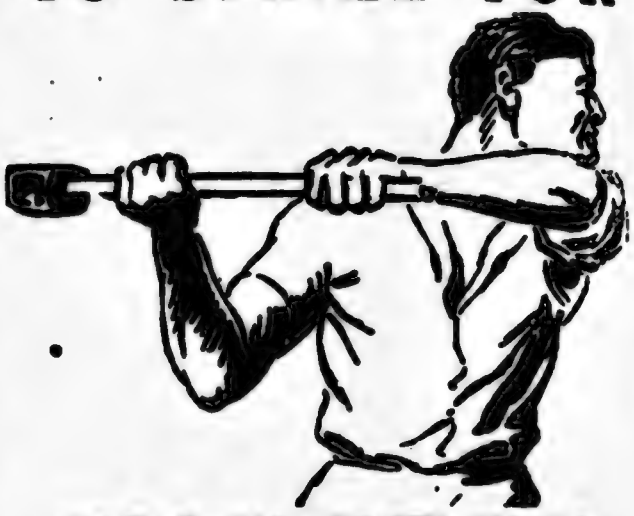
And when the Brotherhood had finished feasting, the honoured guest wrote a big cheque for the funds; but just as he was handing it to the Secretary, the mysterious knocking was heard again.

No one answered; no door was opened; but presently the man in rags stood before them. His face shone with beauty, putting into shadow all the glitter of the feast as though it were shrivelled tinsel.

The guests trembled; it was only for an instant or two, and then the figure faded. But as the form quickly vanished, the guests saw tears in His eyes, and on His brow a crown of thorns.

Then on the cheque that the great subscriber had given they saw great stains of blood and tears—marks of cruel wrongs and sweated labour; and in a moment the mask fell from the rich man's face—they saw a hideous grin, and beneath his rich attire the shape of a cloven hoof.

HOW TO STRIKE FOR



SUCCESS

STRIKE hard! Strike home!

You must strike for yourself; no one can or will do it for you.

Take off your coat, roll up your sleeves—Strike! That is the only way to beat down the obstacles which stand between you and Security and Better Pay.

Is your position secure? Is your pay as high as you would like it to be? If they are not, who is going to strike for you? You must strike for yourself—a strong, heavy blow.

You must strike off the chain which binds you. What is it? Is it that you cannot prove to your employer that you are worth more than he is giving you now, worth a better and secure position?

What proof does he ask? What proof could you give him? He demands that you shall be a man who has the practical KNOWLEDGE which will give you the power to DO things. That knowledge the International Correspondence Schools can give YOU as they have already given it to so many others. With that knowledge at your back you will be able to strike out hard for yourself and your blow will go home—it will tell.

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The Book of the Motor-Car is the first really comprehensive work on motor-cars, motor-cycles, and cycle-cars ever published. By the careful study of its chapters the rawest amateur can learn the principles upon which his car works, but at the same time it is so comprehensive and so striking in its detail that even the skilled expert will find it a book of enthralling interest and extreme utility, while the practical motorist will find it quite indispensable. It should be as much a part of the equipment of a garage as an oil-can or a lifting-jack.

Driving and Repairs.

The Book is full of invaluable information on all problems of driving and repairing a car, instructions being given for all possible difficulties in language that can be understood by the most unmechanical mind. The following are a few of the subjects dealt with :—

Cylinders, valves of all kinds, different types of engines, carburetters, ignition, silencers, gears and clutches, radiators, cooling systems, brakes, lubricators, lighting systems, artillery and wire wheels, tyres, fuels and how to use them (including all the new petrol substitutes), tools and repair appliances, etc., etc.

Cycle-Cars and Motor-Cycles.

The work pays full attention to motor-cycles and cycle-cars, full details and instruction being given for all those points wherein they must be treated differently from the more powerful motor-car.

It is profusely illustrated with full-page plates, drawings in plan, section and elevation, diagrams and photographs, as well as a series of sectional movable models in colour showing in detail the actual working parts of a car.

Mr. CHARLES JARROTT writes :—

"I think 'The Book of the Motor Car' invaluable. As a book of reference it will be of great value to me, and I recommend everyone who is keenly interested in their car should have a copy."

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To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated booklet giving full particulars of "The Book of the Motor-Car" and your offer to deliver the complete work for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only.

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.....

My maiden Speech
and How I Made It.

By JOHN HERRICK.

I may explain to start with that I am an ordinary business man—who, you might say, had no need of the art of public speaking. But in my business, at any rate, we are always holding meetings and dinners to discuss business subjects of various sorts. Till recently when I have attended such meetings I have gone as a spectator and never dared to get upon my legs and make a speech. This was not through lack of a desire to do so, for I noticed long ago that the men who spoke oftenest and best were the men who got on best in their business—and, like most other men, I want to get on in business too.

THE TERRORS OF "NERVES."

It was simply lack of ability. I had never made a speech and was too nervous to try. But that is all altered now. I made my maiden speech two months ago and since then I have made three more. My first was rather halting, though I did not disgrace myself, but my fourth, only last Friday, was a real success. I had lost my nervousness; I made my points and I carried the meeting with me till I sat down amid *real* applause.

And the pleasure that applause gave me! It was like the old days when one won a prize at school and one felt that the world was a good world after all.

Moreover, it is not only a great pleasure to be able to make a good speech; it is nowadays really a business necessity.

To one man the chance of making a speech affords the opportunity for an enhanced reputation; to another it is nothing but a danger. For the man who stutters and stammers, and finally sits down after a speech principally consisting of "ums" and "ers," scarcely enhances his reputation as a keen-witted member of the community or as a man whose intelligence and resource can be depended upon in a business crisis.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.

And because of that I am going to make a confession. I owe every bit of that success to—what do you think?—a book, a book which first of all put me in the right way to thinking out a speech, which then provided me an amusing story with which to start and which finally gave me many valuable hints on the actual making of the speech. You may think this a lot for a book to do. So it is, but this book does it all.

HOW TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC.

And the name of this book is "the Book of Public Speaking." It is the only work of its kind ever published in this country, and it is a book that ought to be in the hands of every ambitious man and every man whatever his position in life who is liable to be called upon to make a speech in public. It is written by men who are famous for the brilliance of their own speeches and their articles cover every phase of the subject from the choice of a topic and the selection of material to the art of gesture and the silencing of interruptors. For instance there are :—

Right Hon. T. J. Macnamara, M.P., on "How to Make an Effective Speech"; Sir W. Robertson Nicoll (Editor of the *British Weekly*), on "The Art of Oratory"; Arthur Bourchier (the well-known actor), on "How to Prepare and Deliver a Speech"; J. L. Griffiths (U.S.A. Consul-General, London), on "After-dinner Speaking"; A. C. Benson, M.A., on "The Art of Lecturing."

Who could be better qualified than these men to teach one how to speak? And in case one has an opportunity to be chairman or steward at a public meeting there is also a valuable series of articles by Albert Crew, Barrister-at-Law, explaining every point of the legal aspect of Public Speaking, and dealing with the whole subject of the conduct of and procedure at meetings.

But the Book of Public Speaking is of the greatest interest even for the man who never has to speak in public, because it presents for the first time an entirely new form of literature of enthralling interest. Its handsome covers contain the cream of the greatest speeches of modern times.

There is hardly an orator of note of recent years who is not represented in the work; there is scarcely a subject of importance or of interest that is not dealt with in one or more of the speeches. Political Orations, Religious Addresses, After Dinner Speeches, Scientific and Literary Lectures, all have been brought together to form a work of enthralling interest to all intelligent people. Among the great speakers whose speeches are included in the work are :—

THE WORLD'S GREATEST ORATORS.

Lord Rosebery.	—Sir A. Conan Doyle.
Lord Beaconsfield.	—Sir Edward Grey, K.G.
H. H. Asquith.	—Earl Halsbury.
A. J. Balfour.	—Sir Henry Irving.
Sir Edward Clarke, K.C.	—Lord Fisher
Andrew Lang.	—Abraham Lincoln.
D. Lloyd George.	—Justin McCarthy.
Mark Twain.	—Viscount Milner.
Spencer Leigh Hughes.	—M. Poincare.
Joseph Chamberlain.	—Whitelaw Reid.
Max O'Rell.	—Theodore Roosevelt.
R. Waldo Emerson.	—Philip Snowden.
Harold Cox.	—Ian Maclaren.
Woodrow Wilson.	—Emile Zola.
G. Bernard Shaw.	—Augustine Birrell.
Charles Dickens.	—Sir A. W. Pinero.
Chauncey Depew.	—John Bright.
W. E. Gladstone.	—Winston Churchill.

TWO OPINIONS.

PHILIP SNOWDEN, Esq., M.P., writes :—

"The selection of speeches seems to me to be admirable. The introduction and the articles on 'The Art of Public Speaking' are full of very excellent advice."

SIR W. BULL, M.P., writes :—

"What a godsend 'The Book of Public Speaking' will be to a busy man who is called upon at short notice to make 200 speeches a year on all sorts of subjects. It will be useful to young men who are really in earnest in wanting to speak well—whilst no public man's library should be without it."

A FREE BOOK.

The publishers have prepared an interesting illustrated book—which they will send free—describing the work and their offer to deliver the complete work as published for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey St., London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge and without any obligation on my part, full particulars of "The Book of Public Speaking."

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

HUGH McKEAN.

AN ANTICIPATED EPITAPH.

Here
Atte laste,
And none too soone,
Lie buryed ye remaynes
Of
An illusive individual
Knowne as

Hugh McKean.

Hys
Actuall identitie was doubtfull toe ye end:
Thatte is toe say,
Hee may have been Elmer Sidney Prather,
Or
Clay Burton Vance,
Or
"Professor" Roxroy,
Or
All three rolled intoe one.
Butte
For our owne parte
We are inclyned toe thynke thatte Hugh McKean
Was a Yankee "Mrs. Harris,"
Thatte is toe say,
Thatte there never was no sich pusson,
Butte thatte hee was merelie an *alias*
Of
ELMER SIDNEY PRATHER,
A Yankee shark operatynge manie flatte-trappes
From
260, Weftmynfter Brydge Road, S.E.
Bee thatte as itt may,
HUGH McKEAN
(Accordynge toe hys owne confefsione,
Ye whyche wee nowe ufe in evidence agaynft hym)
Was born in ye United States,
Where,
As hee hymfelfe says,
Hee spente manie of hys younger yeares worklynge on a salarie.
Butte
Hee "worried and chafed and trotted";
Hee "was anythynge butte satiffyed,"
Whenne,
Meetynge a younge ladie,
"Whoo was ye private book-keeper
Of one of ye shrewdeft mail order men in ye worlde,"
Hee learned from her ye tricks of ye trade,
And acquyred a bigge fortune in noe tyme.
Eager toe increafe hys wealthe,
And anxious toe imparte ye secrets of
Ye Mail Order Bufinefs
Toe ye Brytyfh Publick
(Atte a pryce),
Hee came toe Englande
And offered toe teache all whoo were fooles enow
Toe sende hym monie,
Howe toe make and sell
Lemon droppes, Hoarhound candie, Peppermint droppes,
Everton Taffy (*sic*—in more wayes thanne one)
Popcorn candie, Sheet blueynge for laundrie purpofes,
And howe toe open Beauty parlors and grow mufhroomes.
Manie deluded individuals
Were foolyfh enow toe pay hym two guineas
For thys pifflynge twaddle,
And doubtlefs manie more wolde have done soe
Hadde notte JOHN BULL shewn uppe hys
Lyttle game,
Whyche soe filled hym wyth chagrin
Thatte hee dyed.

Ye crumblynge boanes of Hugh McKean
Have never yette been really seen:
If boanes bee here, we thynke they're rather
Ye boanes of Elmer Sidney Prather:
Itt matters little whoo itt is, wee guess,
Soe longe as there's one Yankee shark ye less!

FIELD GLASSES THIS WEEK. Selfridge's GLASSES, and, of course, superior.

The Field Glass we wish to tell you about is our new Prismatic (Stereoscopic Model).

Has a magnification of 8 diameters and is designed to give crispnes of definition combined with brilliant illumination.

Adjustable eyepiece for eyes of unequal focus and also bending bars to suit different features.

Complete with two slings and best quality Brown or Black Hide case. 55/-.

SELFRIDGE & Co., Ltd., Oxford St., London, W.

THE MAGIC of the MASCOT

The Wonderful Eastern Charm.

The good luck brought about by wearing "Touchwood," the Eastern T[illegible], is all the rage. The luckiest charm in the field just now is, without doubt, the weird little Eastern figure, "Touchwood." It is so novel and so lucky that [illegible] MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA has purchased a number of them. The history of this little mascot dates back thousands of years. In fact, nobody knows how old he is, for he was in the beginning of things he seems to have been used and believed in as a bringer of Good Luck, happiness and prosperity.

The Eastern people call him their Holy Charm because his little head is made of Sacred [illegible], arms and legs of either gold or silver, with [illegible] sparkling eyes.

The Eastern people say it is with his eyes that he protects the wearer and averts ill-luck. We are offering these wonderful luck bringers at the following prices: 1s. 6d. each set in silver; [illegible] in gold. We have also a number set with eyes of real Rubies, Diamonds, Emeralds, [illegible], Turquoise, Coral, Topaz, Sardonyx, etc. [illegible] birthday gifts, at £1 1s. each; these are [illegible] real gems.—Address: "J.B.," Editorial Dept., The Mascot, Southampton House, 317, High Holborn, London, W.C.

BULLETS COMPETITORS

Read this glowing testimony from MR. H. VERNON BLAKE, of Bridgwater, who recently won a £500 "Bullets" prize for the clever line—

Example: **GOLDEN RULE.**
Bullet: **LEND EAR ONLY.**

MR. VERNON BLAKE writes:

"I can say with all honesty that I owe my £500 success to the good old 'C.J.'"

"THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL."
familiarly known as the "C.J." is on sale at all Smith's, Wyman's and other Bookstalls. Every Wednesday. One Penny.

"THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL" contains:
ADVICE — COST — 1d.
which may bring a
PRIZE — WORTH — £500

ASK FOR A COPY TO-DAY. It contains advice re this week's "Bullets."

"I'd no idea you were in Town"

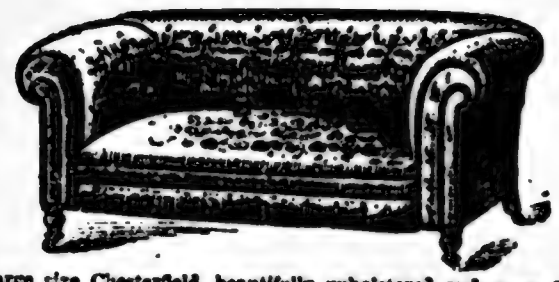
—"Yes, I came up to the 'Midland' for some new furniture. They paid my fare to London.

You know how difficult it is to find just what you want in a country place. And I always like to get really good furniture while I'm about it. So I went to the 'Midland'—London's Leading Furnishers—where you've the choice of £100,000 worth of beautiful furniture on Ideal Terms. I got everything I wanted, and, between ourselves, the cheque I drew for it was far smaller than I should have paid for furniture of anything like the same quality elsewhere. For

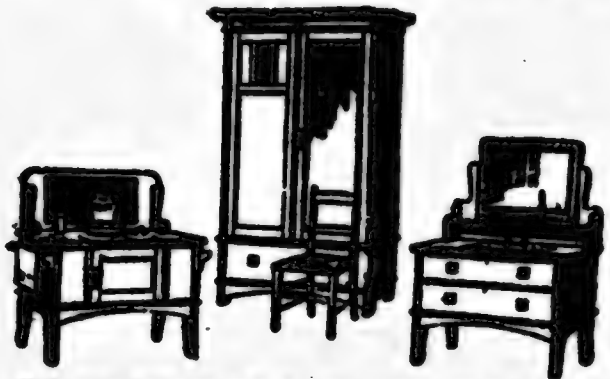
Money buys more at the 'Midland.'"

The enormous business transacted by the "Midland," and the intermediate profits they save as the actual manufacturers, enable them to give you value unapproachable elsewhere. They charge nothing for credit—no deposit, no interest—nothing for packing or delivery—nothing beyond the competitive cash prices plainly marked on all the goods. There are no "extras" whatsoever about a purchase at the "Midland"—except the extra value you get. Customers' fares to London paid on all orders of £20 and upwards.

A most artistic Oak Dresser, beautifully designed on Queen Anne lines, with 2 drawers and 2 cupboards. Exceptional value. **£5 15s. 0d.**



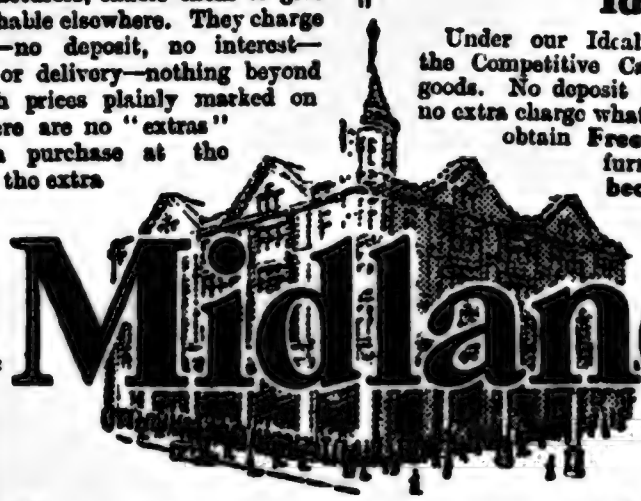
Large size Chesterfield, beautifully upholstered and covered in Tapestry to customer's choice. With or without drop end. **£4 14s. 6d.**



Well-made Bedroom Suite in Oak, handsomely designed. A typical example of "Midland" value. With 2 rush-seated Chairs. **£6 16s. 6d.**

Ideal Terms.

Under our Ideal Payment System you pay only the Competitive Cash Prices plainly marked on the goods. No deposit is asked, no interest required, and no extra charge whatever is made. Customers can also obtain **Free Insurance policies** whereby all furniture purchased on Ideal Terms **becomes the property of the wife** without further payment, in the event of the death of the purchaser. All furniture thus purchased is also **insured against fire, free.**



Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

Contractors to H.M. Crown Agents for the Colonies,

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, W.C.

Seven doors from Holborn and Holborn Tube Station.
1 minute from British Museum Tube Station.

Hours—9 till 8. Saturdays—9 till 1.

Instalment Table.

Worth.		Per Month.
£10	...	£0 6 0
£20	...	0 11 0
£30	...	0 17 0
£40	...	1 5 0
£50	...	1 8 0
£100	...	2 5 0
£200	...	4 10 0
£500	...	11 5 0

Larger amounts pro rata.
We give 10% Additional Discount for Cash.

A Fascinating Book of Fine Furniture FREE.

If you cannot call send a postcard with your full name and address. We will send you by return our Book of Fine Furniture, richly illustrated with over 1,000 photographs.

A

CASH for SKILL!

SEND IN YOUR BULLET NOW.

If you don't win the First Prize of £500, there are 5,072 other prizes which MUST be won.

First Prize. **£500** **First Prize.**

2nd Prize	3rd Prize	20 Prizes of	50 Prizes of
£50	£25	£2-10-0	£1 EACH.

500 Prizes of	2,500 Prizes of
5s.	2/6

AND

2,000 OTHER HANDSOME PRIZES.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

WILL ULSTER FIGHT	WHEN FIRST MARRIED	CROWING OFF	MOST PEOPLE DISLIKE
SHATTERED CONSTITUTION	GOOD LIVING	THE WRONG MAN	JUST ARRIVED
SEAT OF TROUBLE	BABY'S FIRST TOOTH	DIVIDED ATTENTIONS	FIRST CUT
VERY PRETTY	TYPIST'S MISTAKE	FEMININE ART	WHAT SHE SAYS
BOARD OF TRADE	SLOW CARS	FOR HER SAKE	GOOD SERVANT
PROGRESS, YOUTH	NEXT PLEASE	UNCLAIMED TREASURE	HUSBY'S RESTAURE
FULL OF HOPE	OUT OF PAYE	LONGEST RUN	MODEL LAWS
UNDUE RESTRAINT	BOLD MEASURES	CRIMES OF AGE	MUST BE OBSERVED
PUT UP AFFAIR	WHEN OTHERS LIES	HONEST JOHN	MOVE ON
CLEARLY ACCEPTED	CHARMS DESIRED	SPRING FASHIONS	WELL IN FRONT

How to Make Bullets. First choose any one of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST AND LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "GRADLY ACCEPTED" and take the letters "E" and "G" using the word "Sweetheart" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet "EVERYTHING SWEETHEART GIVES." From the example "MOST PEOPLE DISLIKE" the Bullet "DOING TIME" can be formed.

Again, if you choose the example "PEN HAS SAID" using the letter "F" as initial for both the first and last words, you can form the Bullet "FARTHING CHANGE FREQUENTLY."

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence. But if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Competitors can see the "Bullets" Judges at work at any time.

Closing date, Wednesday, February 25th.

Example_____

Bullet_____

Example_____

Bullet_____

(73) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

Signed_____

Address_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated February 28th.

Closing date, Wednesday, February 25th.

Example_____

Bullet_____

Example_____

Bullet_____

(73) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

Signed_____

Address_____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 73," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

"BULLETS" RULES

(Which must be strictly adhered to).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, and his special staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. In deciding prizes originality and aptness will be taken into account. The right is reserved to divid- a prize or prizes among two or more competitors if merited.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons in this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, crossed ____ & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses ____ and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, and the number of which must be also noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may combine one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, February 25.

6. The Editor understands that every Bullet receives special consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

7. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Restatement of characteristics like the adjudication of our "Bullets" Competition. Every coupon is judged by TWO DIFFERENT members of our special staff of Adjudicators, who have been chosen by reason of their high qualifications for this work. This staff provides all coupons which they consider sufficiently meritorious of quality for a prize. No limit, before any coupon is rejected, TWO DIFFERENT Judges have to decide that it is not of sufficient worth to secure a prize. Then all coupons selected are considered by the Competition Editor in consultation with the Judges. In this manner the coupons are reduced in number to correspond with the actual number of prizes to be awarded. The Competition Editor again in consultation with the Judges, next selects all the best coupons awarded. These are placed before the Editor, who after consultation, decides finally the order of merit. This system of Judging keeps a large staff of Adjudicators continually occupied for the whole of the week—so discernibly is the work done. We would point out that, by this system of judging, no award is decided arbitrarily by one mind. It is only after a line has been considered sufficiently meritorious by a BODY OF JUDGES IN CONSULTATION, all of whom are specially qualified for the work, that it can even win a cash or any other prize. As regards the principal prizes, the coupons of outstanding merit are considered many times by the Editor, and also by the Competition Editor and the Adjudicating staff in consultation, before the final awards are made. In a sentence, ALL coupons are read and considered more than once by a specially selected staff of highly qualified Adjudicators, under the general supervision of our experienced Competition Expert—and in consultation with the Editor. That is why "Bullets" constitute a genuine skill contest, free from any and every element of arbitrary decision or of chance selection.

Result of 70th Bullets Competition

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

Mr. J. IRVIN,
21, Hill Street, Inverkeithing, Fife.

Example—OUT OF PLACE.
Bullet—PUTTY BEFORE PITY.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. W. H. PRODHAM,
c.o. Water Board, 28, Bond Street, Ealing, London, W.

Example—DRASTIC MEASURES.
Bullet—TURNCOCK ACCOMPANIES COLLECTOR.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. H. WILLIAMS,
167, Gt. Lister Street, Birmingham.

Example—JUDICIAL HUMOUR.
Bullet—HALDANE ON INCOMES.

CONTINUATION OF WINNERS p. 31.

THE RESULT OF THIS COMPETITION WILL APPEAR IN OUR ISSUE DATED MARCH 14th.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—
Isn't Larkin a very "trying" sort of chap?
Won't it be a very "critical" session indeed?
Didn't Lord Carrick rather miss the limelight?
Doesn't the Bishop of Zanzibar preach tolerance?
Isn't the trousers skirt sure to be "taken off"?
How long will the United Suffragettes remain such?
Is the Government "getting up" or "letting off" steam?
Shouldn't Baron de Forest attend to "his own affairs"?
Oughtn't the police to know Mrs. Pankhurst by this time?
Have you had your "Bullets" cheque yet? See page 28.
How do the Holloway "martyrs" like the consolations of the Church?
Doesn't the Insurance Act present too many 'checks" already?

* * *

A Norfolk hen has laid an egg weighing 6 ozs. A good strain.

* * *

2,283 novels were published in 1913. How these storytellers do pile it on!

* * *

The Isle of man is to be advertised. Of course, Hall Caine will get the job.

* * *

"It's the pace that kills," remarked the damaged pedestrian to the road-hog.

* * *

A shortage in beef is threatened. We shall have to "return to our muttons."

* * *

"Hunt meet at workhouse," we read. The inmates do, but they rarely find it.

* * *

"Plum pudding is like matrimony," says a writer. Yes, few of us want a second helping.

* * *

"Don't play golf," says A. C. Maclaren. We shan't have time—until we are in the Cabinet.

* * *

A doctor states that the Eskimos have an extra joint in the back. A cold shoulder, of course.

* * *

An English Army officer intends to fly the Atlantic. We fear he won't find it all plane sailing.

* * *

The first woman to loop the loop says "I had no senses." We think the plural a little singular.

* * *

A Harrow vicar complains of a scarcity of brides. We always thought they might be had for the asking.

* * *

Drinking was said to be the "favourite occupation" of a Willesden prisoner. He had a taste for it.

* * *

The authoress who calls her new book "The White Gate," evidently expects people to go through it.

* * *

"It is quite easy to learn to love," says a novelist. Yes, all you have to do is to put your heart into it.

* * *

As if City men have not been getting it "in the neck" enough lately, an epidemic of mumps has broken out.

* * *

The Dublin strike is estimated to have cost £20,000 for extra police. You can get a lot of coppers for that.

* * *

"Time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time," says a contemporary. Try and convince your employer of this.

* * *

The South Eastern Railway has mislaid a couple of engines. A mere detail; we lost a complete train the other day.

* * *

"Watch the Earth Go Round. New Pastime for Winter Evenings," says a morning paper Not so new, surely!

* * *

A Tube lift that works itself has been introduced. That is a distinct improvement on the one that won't work at all.

* * *

The bank holiday recently decreed by President Huerta is to extend over sixty days. That ought to make him popular.

* * *

The chair-makers on strike at High Wycombe have been noting. Somebody will have to cane their seats for them.

* * *

A prisoner at Springfield gaol tried to escape by impersonating a man who was repairing the organ. But he had the wrong key, and played into the warder's hands.

Printer's Pie.

(THE WORK OF THE "DEVIL.")

PORTSMOUTH "EVENING NEWS" :—
"There were NO ANIMALS on the (Ladrones) islands EXCEPT a few species of BIRDS."

"THE WORKER" (Huddersfield) report :—
"He saw the HORSE AND CART galloping past . . . Witness was of opinion that Winter UNHARNESSED the horse, which bolted and knocked him down."

"ISLE OF MAN TIMES" :—
"John Cannel, for keeping a dog WITH A LICENCE, was on Thursday fined 10s."

MESSRS. HEYWOOD AND SON, Auctioneers, Newcastle, advertising in the *Staffordshire Sentinel* :—
"Messrs. Heywood and Son have been favoured with instructions from the Executors of the LATE T. Hall, Esq. (WHO IS LEAVING)."

"DAILY MALTA CHRONICLE" advertisement :—
"Wanted a cock general for two. Apply——"

"SOMERSET STANDARD" report :—
"The ceilings were broken, and there was a hole right through the FLOOR of the scullery so that it was possible to see to the top of the ROOF.

"TRIBUNE" (Tillicoultry) :—
"Very soon now a WALK along our vales and dales will be something to CONJURE with."

MR. HENRY FARMER, writing in the *Daily Mirror* :—
"But the woman with the VIVID RED NOSE in the bosom of her dress detected no note of irony in Slew's voice."

"OXFORDSHIRE WEEKLY NEWS" report :—
"The Mayor said the judgment of the Court was that the cases . . . had been clearly proved. . . . It was to be distinctly understood that in future they were not to FOLLOW the workers on any occasion either in FRONT or behind."

"DAILY CITIZEN" report :—
"Mr. Tobin; who rose to speak on behalf of Ball, provided a great contrast. At times his voice ROSE to a mere WHISPER."

"CAVALIER" :—
"An empty taxi drove up. . . . The chauffeur . . . alighted from his perch, patted HIS LEAN CHESTNUT MARE, and rang the bell of Fiamma's door."

"DAILY MIRROR" (February 6th) :—
"At 6 P.M. the SHADE temperature was 49deg."

"SPORTING NEWS" (Swansea) :—
"When Scotland scored that sensational try of theirs THREE MINUTES BEFORE THE START, it looked as if the optimistic utterances of the critics north of the Tweed were going to be justified."

HULL "DAILY MAIL" :—
"The BARE neck is to be BARER STILL."

"KIDDERMINSTER TIMES" :—
"Rarely indeed was he seen in the town unless he was wearing in his button hole a beautiful flower—preferably a rose or an ORCHARD."

"LINCOLNSHIRE STANDARD" report :—
"The Chairman also GAVE A SHORT ADDRESS on the political situation, but WAS NOT ABLE TO SPEAK owing to his accident on Monday."

BREADALBANE ELECTRIC PICTURE AND VARIETY HALL, advertising in the *Northern Ensign* :—
"Friday and Saturday.—'Burning Rivet,' showing how Circumstantial Evidence has been the means of sending many an INNOCENT man to his DOOM, and OTHER HUMOROUS and Instructive Pictures."

Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published in this column. Should more than one competitor call attention to the same blunder, the amount will be forwarded to the sender of the first letter opened. In the case of newspaper cuttings sufficient must be forwarded to identify the name of the journal and date of issue. Envelopes to be marked "Printer's Pie" in the left-hand top corner.

Result of our No. 10 Football Contest. Winners on page 5.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR!

GEMS FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

"Wanting information in regard to My Mother's family who came from some Part of England some ninty years ago and could think of no where to ask unless it was your information department the following are the facts as far as we know. A Gallispie girl married an Eaton soldier ninty years ago and came to America. it is believed they were of titled familys but the Gallispie girl was disowned for making such a marrage. What part of England they came from is forgotten. My Mother who is a granddaughter of this marrage whishes the information. if you can get me the information or direct me so I can secure it I will be very thankful."

"Please inform me if it is true that all pennies of the year 1912 having the letter "H" before the figures "1912" are of any special value? I was informed that they are worth 1s. 6d. at any bank. If such rumour were true I should save up such pennies. Please say if you believe it."

"Would you be good enough to drop a few lines to —— Charing Cross Road, W.C., and ask if he will be good enough to send you on a cheque for 20s. which he has owed to me since May last?. I will make a small present to you for whatever cause you care to put it to although I am out of pocket I don't mind if I can only have justice from such a Cad."

"Just a Line or two to ask of you that is, to say if you will kindly publish a case in your paper a very interesting case and what has been tried in the High Court of Justice and by a Judge and two Counsels I was supened in the High Court to give evidence on the Case but my name was Left out by the Will by them making hoping you will kindly see into it for me the Solicitor that made the Will by which I was benefeted stood up in the Court and said him was guilty him would pay before a police Inspector him has not done so them have kept the case about since the year all of 1894 when the dess Lady and I have got all papers to show there was one Solicitor had 600£ out of one Ladys estate for making a false Will thanking you dear Sir for a reply the Legacy that was Left to me was £100 I have written to the High Court but have not heard."

OUR (MAD) POET'S CORNER.

THE CUDDLE CLUTCH.

(The Cuddle Clutch is a new dance to be produced at a London theatre and is expected to be the next craze.)

In the Cuddle Clutch the partners grasp
  Each other round the neck,
The young man, careful in his clasp
  Her hair-pad not to wreck;
Then, to the music's dulcet sound,
  Ecstatic'lly they sway;
The ball-room wide they circle round
  And cuddle all the way.

When soon this new dance is revealed,
  Its sponsors make no doubt
The doom of ragtime will be sealed
  And tango counted out;
The shyest maiden will be coy
  Nor know timidity,
When whispered by her nicest boy,
  "Wilt cuddle clutch with me?"

Well, when they mount it on the stage,
  May I be there to see,
But, whether 'twill become the rage,
  That may, or may not, be;
I only know the thing's not new,
  For years, when we'd the chance,
We've cuddle-clutched—though we refrained
  From calling it a dance!

A FINE TREATMENT FOR CATARRH.

EASY TO MAKE AND COSTS LITTLE.

If you suffer from Catarrh, head noises, sore throat, asthma, or Hay Fever, here is a fine recipe that invariably effects a permanent cure after all other treatments have failed.

Its effect in the worst cases is most striking and positive.

The Catarrhal poison is quickly driven from the system, and its tonic action immediately increases the vitality, which is always lowered by this insidious disease. From your chemist obtain 1 oz. of Parmint (double strength), about 2s. 6d. worth, take this home and add to it ½-pint of hot water, two tablespoonsful of brandy and 4 oz. of moist or granulated sugar. Take one tablespoonful four times a day.

The first dose promptly ends the most miserable headache, dulness, sneezing, sore throat, running of the nose, Catarrhal discharges, head noises, and other loathsome symptoms that always accompany this disgusting disease.

Loss of smell, defective hearing, and mucous dropping in the back of the throat are other symptoms that show the presence of Catarrh, and which are quickly overcome by the use of this simple treatment.

Every person who has Catarrh in any form should give this prescription a trial. There is nothing better.

DESTROYING THE DANDRUFF GERM.

How to Grow Thick, Glossy Hair.

The large increase in hair troubles within the last year has become alarming, so much so, that almost every other person, whether aware of the fact or not, suffers from hair trouble of some kind or other from time to time. In many cases, the trouble gradually increases, and becomes chronic. The result is probably falling hair, and premature baldness. One of the commonest and most deadly of hair troubles results from the presence of the dandruff germ. A reliable hair tonic that will destroy this germ is absolutely essential, and should be used by everyone noticing the slightest sign of dandruff or scurf. Lavona Hair Tonic has produced some wonderful results in this respect, not only thoroughly destroying every sign of dandruff, but also promoting a thick growth of strong, healthy hair. The confidence the manufacturers have in this excellent tonic is proved, apart from the splendid results, by the fact that practically every chemist in the United Kingdom will give his written and signed guarantee to refund the full price to anyone who is not satisfied after trying a bottle. If you suffer from dandruff, falling hair, baldness, itching scalp, or dry, brittle and dull hair, you should try at once a bottle of this tonic, which was formerly known as Harriett Meta's Gold Medal Hair Tonic. Get the signed guarantee, and if it doesn't do all that is claimed for it, go and get your money back.

A signed guarantee of satisfaction or money back can be procured with every bottle from: Boots', Taylor's, Timothy White's, Henry Hodder's, Lewis and Burrows', from Selfridge's, Harrod's, Whiteley's, the Army and Navy, Civil Service, and Co-Operative Associations, and from leading chemists anywhere.

RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, GOUT, and all URIC ACID complaints

NEED NO LONGER TROUBLE YOU.

1s. 11d. PER BOTTLE. **Gervikol** TRIAL SIZE 6d.

has cured many. Will quickly benefit you. Send 6d. (to cover cost of preparation, packing and posting) for trial sample and booklet. Your money returned when purchasing the first full size bottle.

APIA Manufacturing Co., 127a, Minories, London, E.C.

HAVE YOU A CAR? If so, don't ruin the delicate surfaces with stale, grit-clogged sponges and leathers, but use a RAPID WATER-FORCE WASHER. Cars washed in a "jiffy." No scratching. "JOHN BULL" said on Dec. 5th, "An extremely ingenious and much-needed invention." Illustrated catalogue free.
THE RAPID WORKS, 3 & 5, KING'S STREET, HAMMERSMITH, W.

Zam-Buk *The Great Skin Cure!*

FINAL COUPON THIS WEEK. CLOSES FEB. 27

Now is your opportunity to win our great £1,750 Football Prize for an all correct coupon—the second and *Final* coupon appears on page 2 of our cover this week. The matches selected are League games to be played Saturday, February 28th—the contest closing February 27th. Send in your entries without delay—it is your last chance. Readers resident in Scotland may now enter our Football Contests. No goals are required—only wins and draws and there are no fees. You may send as many entries as you like.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

Is to forecast the results of the League games to be played on Saturday, Feb 28th, given on the entrance form on page 2 of our cover. **Before posting your forecasts read carefully the new method of marking your forecasts as explained on the coupon.**

£1,750 FOR AN ALL-CORRECT COUPON.

The huge sum of **£1,750** will be paid to the competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of all the matches given which are played to a finish. If, owing to bad weather or other causes, a match is not completed, it will be disregarded. Thus, **ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.**

Should it happen that no Entrance Form be received giving the whole of the correct results, **£250** will be paid to the competitor whose coupon shows one error only. In the unlikely event of neither the £1,750 nor the £500 being won, we shall in any event pay the cash prize of **£250** to the sender of the most correct forecasts, whatever the number—even if only 8 or 10. In addition we shall pay a cash prize of **£50** for the most correct forecast sent on a Mauve Coupon taken from MARY BULL. This is a distinct and additional prize—a Mauve Coupon signed by a lady, means the sender has the opportunity of winning not only the £1,750, £500, or £250, but also an extra £50.

The competition is one of pure skill, and a test of knowledge of form. Competitors should make a point of studying the Football columns of the newspapers.

Our elaborate checking arrangements and our new method of marking the coupon safeguard the interests of our competitors in every way and render even an attempt at fraud impossible. The risk of a coupon being overlooked is totally eliminated.

Our Football Competition department is now under the personal supervision of "McW." the well-known football writer, late of the "Morning Leader" and "Daily Chronicle."

The RULES and COUPON will be found on PAGE 2 of COVER.

£50 "MAUVE" COUPON PRIZE.

A Special and extra prize of £50 is again offered for a "Mary Bull" Mauve Coupon. Thus by using a "Mauve" Coupon competitors have the opportunity of winning not only the £1,750, or the £500 or £250, but also an additional £50. The final Mauve Coupon will be found in the issue of "Mary Bull" on sale Friday, February 20th.

SCOTTISH READERS MAY ENTER.

We are now able to accept entries from readers resident in Scotland, so specially invite our Scottish readers to participate in this contest.

Address: JOHN BULL, 23, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Mark envelope, "Football Contest No. 12." Closing date, Friday, February 27th.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 28, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. Over 5,000 Prizes are to be won this week. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered for the Best "Bullet" received, together with 3,072 other cash prizes.

Further List of "BULLETS" Prizewinners.

FOR NAMES OF FIRST THREE PRIZEWINNERS SEE P. 28.

20 PRIZES OF £2 10s.

[illegible], S. Edric Road, New Cross, S.E.:
E. C[illegible]—CHIEF MORES ERROR.
[illegible], Clarence Street, Haverton Hill, Middlesbrough:
S. T[illegible]—THE BARMAID'S SWEETHEART.
[illegible], Horn Hill, Millom, Cumbd.:
[illegible]—TWOS AND TREES.
[illegible], Francis Street, Westminster, S.W.
[illegible]—LIMITED—DEBTOR THINKS EARTH'S.
[illegible], 20, Camp Street, Motherwell, N.B.:
A[illegible]—ARMS "SLOW" REVOLVERS."
[illegible], M.A., 3, Curragh View Terrace, Kildare, Ireland.
W[illegible]—LIKE THE HORIZON.
[illegible], Tonyvern Council School, Thomastown, Bonvilston.
A[illegible]—LIMITED—IF RELATIONS ABOUT.
[illegible], Grove Lea, Lansdown Rd., Bath:
S[illegible]—FROM "PURE" INVENTION.
[illegible], Charing Cross Road, W.C.:
[illegible]—OF PARLIAMENT IMMATERIAL.
[illegible], 14, Guidrey Terrace, Sedbergh, Yorks:
T[illegible]—CONSTABLE—"TRIES" MAGISTRATES SOME-
A. W. [illegible], Lythanger, Liss, Hants:
[illegible]—"SAFETY IN SLUMBERS."
[illegible], 12, Woodland Villas, Leeson Pk., Dublin:
[illegible]—EGG—WINDOW—TOGETHER.
[illegible], 61, Scott Street, Derby:
[illegible]—OF "MORALS"—GASE.
[illegible], Station Master, Cole (for Bruton), Bath:
[illegible]—STAMP NEEDS LICKING.
[illegible], Vicarage Rd., Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent:
[illegible]—LIMITED—OFTEN GENERATES "DE-
[illegible], 12, Palace Rd., Crouch End, Hornsey,
[illegible]—"POLISHED" PEOPLE "SHINE"
[illegible], Bethnal Green Road, N.E.:
[illegible]—THE "STUMPED" ORATOR.
Mr. WILMOT HENSHALL, 11, Rufford Rd., Scrcombe, Ches.: THE VILLAGE CONSTABLE—A 'LEAN" LIVING.
Mr. D. GRAY (Top Mid), 8, Dalgetty Street, Edinburgh.: AFTER THE GIRLS—SUCCESSFUL SONG'S SYNOPSIS.
Mr. W. JOHNSTONE, Purdysburn, Belfast: AFTER THE GIRLS—GRUNDY WINDED SOON.

Reduced Facsimile of the

£500 "BULLETS" CHEQUE

Paid to Last Week's FIRST PRIZEWINNER.

The original of the above Cheque will be on view at the premises of Mr. O. Frederiksen, Newsagent, Exchange Stage, Victoria Street, Manchester, until February 21st, and hence until February 25th at those of Mr. J. Mamelock, Bookseller etc., 33, Oxford Road, Manchester.

Selection from 80 Prizewinners of £1 each.

Aggis, Mrs. M., High-st., Berkeley, Gloucester.
Anderson, D., Harlow Grn., Low Fell, Gateshead-on-Tyne.
Asquith, W. H., 63, Leonard-st., Hull.
Ayrton, H., Queen's Theatre, London, W.
Bull, C. H., "Hildern," Shrewsbury-rd., Shifnal, Salop.
Carson, W. G., 10, Albany-st., Lerwick.
Carswell, L. J., 17, Parham-rd., Gosport, Hants
Clarke, C. H., West-end, Marden, Maid stone
Cave, C. H., 6, St. Austin's-drive, Gedling-rd., Carlton, Nottingham.
Cordaroy, Miss M. A. L., 68, Chaucer-st., Kingsley-park, Northampton.
Cottrell, M., 3, Stafford-rd., Hoe-st., Walthamstow.
Cowell, A., 12, Devonshire-rd., Eccles, Manchester.
Davis, G., junr., Black Horse, Broom, Biggleswade, Beds.
Day, Miss E., 90, Westminster-rd., Liverpool.
Doyle, A., 3, Cross-st., Birkenhead, Ches.
Dunn, J., A.B., No. 5 Ward, R.N. Hospital, Stonehouse, Plymouth.
Earnshaw, Mrs. E., 9, Clifton-drive, Lytham.
Fleming, O. H., The Mall, Downpatrick, Ireland.
Harrison, A. P., 37, Stafford-st., Longton, Staffs.
Hawker, Mrs. T., 172, College-st., Long Eaton.
James, Beatrice, 74c, Grand-parade, Harringay.
Johnston, B. J., 28, Woodcroft-ave., Broomhill, Glasgow.
Keating, Inspector A., Police-station, Bradford, Manchester.
Leach, G. P., 22, Newton-rd., Cricklewood, N.W.
Leigh, T., 52, Treharris-st., Roath, Cardiff.
Levi, E. 39, St. Kilda's-rd., Stoke Newington, N.
Macdonald, D., 119, Main-st., Gorbals, Glasgow.
McGibbon, Sergt. E., A.O.C., Married Qtrs., Haulbowline, co. Cork.
McQuillan, P., 117, Walthew-lane, Platt-bridge, Wigan.
Marshall, Mrs. A. M., 32, St. Peters-st., St Albans.
Oel, Mrs., Lorna Doone, Waterloo-pl., Pelpham, Bognor, Sussex.

"JOHN BULL" £50,000 DERBY SWEEP. Will readers please bear in mind that we cannot either supply or reply to applications for books of tickets for this sweepstake; nor can we act as agents for receiving and forwarding money for tickets. All communications must be addressed direct to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland.

Complete List of all "Bullets" Prizewinners can be seen at these offices.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

Each Financial and Insurance Inquiry must be accompanied by a Postal Order for One Shilling.

Legal Inquiries must be addressed to the Legal Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C., and must be accompanied by a Postal Order for a Shilling.

GENERAL.

J. Mc. (Bradford).—The Editor lost South Hackney by a short head in October, 1900—nearly wresting the seat from the Conservative Member, who held it by a large majority—whilst Liberal seats were falling all round the place, and in most parts of the country.

"SCRUTATOR" (Eastbourne).—You think we hit the Rector "below the belt." That is about the last thing we should think of doing.

E. D. (Bournemouth).—Glad *you* approved of our exposure of the Rector.

G. G. (Bolton).—For what purpose would we recommend the *Daily News and Leader?* Do remember we are a family paper!

A. J. S. (Manchester).—We were taught to be cautious.

A. G. (Devon).—If you will send us your name and address—not necessarily for publication—we will write you. Your letter should be addressed to 52, New Broad Street, E.C.

MESSRS. SOUTHALL AND CO., Boot Manufacturers, of 187, Kirkstall Road, Leeds, wish us to make it clear that they are in no way connected with R. Southall and Co. of 88 in the same road, the unsatisfactory experiences of certain customers of whom we recently published. Messrs. Southall and Co. tell us they have been established for seventeen years, and have branches in Leeds, Sheffield, and Bradford, whereas the firm we referred to commenced business only about a year and a half ago.

"RILED" (Brockley).—You are not the only person in this world who has had difficulty in changing a £5 note. Recently a man stood by the kerb in Fleet Street all day offering a fiver for a penny, and nobody would buy it. Even the policeman moved him on.

J. M. (Morriston).—Your statement that half the commerce of Wales is transacted in the Welsh language is accepted without question. Our regret is that it isn't transacted in English.

W. W. (Wellingborough).—No doubt the law operates harshly in some instances, but the importance of insisting on the tail lamp being kept alight behind vehicles is beyond cavil.

"STROUD" (Glos.).—Yes, but it may well be that the reason for the committee of the Corn Hall "possibly wanting a caretaker for these premises (as announced in the parish magazine)—preferably a married couple without any children," is the absence of sufficient accommodation for a family.

L. F. P. (Rusper, Horsham) says that "a high-caste Indian can never be made to believe he won't be contaminated by contact with a low-caste white, one who does not belong to the nobility or upper class, and the less gentlemen of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's lineage are sent among the Indian people, the better it will be for British status in the country."

W. R. F. (East Sheen) complains of the verbal ruffianism of American managers in London towards girls who have the misfortune to rehearse and play under them. He says the girls are usually addressed as if they are riverside scum.

W. W. (Plaistow) has such a strong opinion that barmen ought to have a trade union of their own that we think he should set-to and form one.

K. D. (Shrewsbury).—Although you say you are a republican at heart "and can't help it," we will try not to think you are, "quite beside yourself."

A. (Blackheath).—Certainly if Mr. Hutton, J.P., of the Greenwich Police Court, is "almost completely deaf," magistracy is not an appropriate occupation for him.

D. B. H. (Gravesend).—We notice a great many Conservative members of late orating from our No-Party and Business Government text, but as they still work the old Party machine they lay themselves open to the suspicion that they are using the text to catch votes.

"YOURS TRULY" (Dalton-le-Dale).—Your story of the "imposition" put on you to hand. It is very sad as you tell it, but if we were to say what we should like about every landlord who raises the rent on his tenants we should be rent in twain.

MR. W. BULL.—If the Alhambra Warehouse Co., of Fore Street, Bradford, have not delivered the bale of goods for which you have paid in full, write to the Chief Constable, Bradford, and explain the circumstances to him.

J. P. (Toronto).—It is absurd of you to feel annoyed because we tell Canadian emigrants to beware. You are one of the fortunate ones. What about the thousands of starving unemployed in British Columbia and elsewhere in the Dominion? Your charge that we are "running down the people who are feeding" us is sheer bosh. You say nothing about the Canadians who run down the people who finance all their undertakings and enable them to float their municipal and other loans. Thanks for good wishes.

L. C. (Wenlock).—Don't worry about the health of the professional footballer whose photograph you recently saw in a newspaper. If he was as ill as he looks, he would not have been on the field, but in a hospital. Press photographs are usually as much like the originals as chalk is like cheese.

A. K. S. (Ponty.).—We know nothing about the Poor Law Training College, of 10, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C., nor who or what they are supposed to train.

R. G. (Llanfairfechan).—We note you have had a begging letter from Todd-Potts, of Gorleston. He is a notorious old humbug.

P. D. (Toronto).—We are glad to hear from a reader since No. 1, but we must decline to revive the painful features of the Maybrick case, Mrs. Maybrick being yet living. As regards the puerile song, "A Bicycle Made for Two," we are pleased to say we have forgotten all about it.

J. A. (H.M.S. *Lion*).—You have all our "symps," as you call it, if you have had dealings with the London Jewellery Syndicate, of Barbican Court, London. You may as well bid an eternal farewell to your hard-earned sixpence.

"BELLUP" (Sandle Bridge).—Craig, Craig and Co., of Dunlop Street, Glasgow, are like most of the "goods-sent-on-receipt-of-so-much-deposit-*and-the-balance*" people. Give all such a wide berth.

C. S. (Birmingham).—You should know best whether it would pay you to buy a Genz-Wheeler Auto-Knitter for cash. But if you depend upon the home-work promises we should advise you to act with caution.

"ANTI-NIGGER" (Harrogate) begs us not to "get mawky over a d—— nigger." It is not "mawky" to protest against their brutal treatment. It is the white women who associate with and encourage them in this country who deserve the punishment.

E. H. F. (East Kirby), R. G. (Handsworth), and OTHERS.—There are plenty of safety hat pins on the market, it appears, but the "dear things" won't use them, preferring to walk about bristling like the fretful porcupine, to the danger of the general public.

"TOMMY" (E. Dulwich).—Clerks stand a poor chance in New Zealand. Moreover, you would not be allowed to land unless you had a good sum of "ready" with you, or a billet to go to.

MISS M. H. (Coventry) inquires whether "Tango Tease are done up in the form of small white capsules like gas mantle tissue the size of a pea and when they are dabed on your neck or hands they go to nothing! If so, do they help you or anyone to sing—dance, talk a lot or anything they want to do." The very first time we are "dabed" on the neck with a Tango Tease we will let her know the effect.

"HOUDINI" (Paris).—We have frequently exposed the Psycho-Success Club, a Yankee flat-trap run by Elmer E. Knowles, at 262, Westminster Bridge Road, London. This is also the headquarters of Hugh McKean's precious Mail Order ramp.

"DAGMAR" (So'ton).—We never heard of the National Association for the Prevention and Amelioration of Deafness, Ltd. We do not agree that its title is altogether explanatory, and should like to know more about it. Perhaps the Secretary will oblige.

F. G. H. (Indian Ocean).—We have frequently exposed the unsatisfactory business methods of Wm. Cooper, Ltd., Old Kent Road.

F. G. T. (Paddington).—The cartoon you wax merry about did not appear in our pages, but in a contemporary.

Scottish Readers may now Enter our Football Contests.

C. A. B. (Rotherhithe).—According to you, "the Greek, Roman, and Protestant cliques are specflom." What are you? a Nothingarian?

S. P. (Luton).—Your letter and enclosure safely to hand.

G. E. H. (Bideford).—You are a very naughty boy for sending us such a story as that.

"DISGUSTED ENGLISHMAN" (Richmond, Victoria, Aust.).—We don't wonder you are disgusted when you find in the *Melbourne Age* such advertisements as this: "Motor Mechanic. . . . No English Johnnies need apply. State wages to Bufford and Co., Corowa, N.S.W." And still some people won't believe such advertisements appear in Australian and Canadian newspapers.

S. L. (East Ham).—We remember the *Daily Mail* telling about somebody who motored round to goodness knows how many different constituencies to cast his vote at the last election.

T. B. (Dollis Hill, N.W.).—We trust by this time you have obtained more satisfactory treatment from the Hearts of Oak Society *re* Insurance cards. We have had several complaints of a similar kind against this Approved Society. It is a thundering shame that though you have written six times you have not received any reply from them.

MME. M. H. (Moreton Place, S.W.).—We can understand your feelings as a mother, but it is really difficult to believe that boys in the Royal Caledonian Asylum at Bushey are insufficiently fed. However, the governing authorities are hereby informed that in your opinion the children ought to have "a little soup or hot pudding at night."

E. T. (Hull).—"I have bought your paper ever since it came out," you tell us, "but have never had the good fortune to receive anything from you." This is very distressing. Would you like a grand piano or a row of houses?

A. L. (Edinburgh).—"It is very seldom indeed that I take exception to anything in your exceptional journal, but—" Shake! It is very seldom indeed we take exception to anything in our exceptional journal ourselves, but when we do there's such a rumpus as never was. Who taught you to write, by the way?

"ARGENTINE."—Your news is that while the Marconi scandal was still raging at home a writer in a Buenos Aires paper made an attack on our Editor, stating that he helped to originate the whole scandal, also that he was turned out of Parliament and was refused the Liberal whip, etc. "I had the pleasure," you say, 'of squashing that amiable gentleman, for he never answered my reply to him." Much obliged for the squash.

G.McC. (Waltham Cross).—Our inclination is to agree that "they had no right" to send you to prison for five days, putting you to hard labour and associating you with convicts, when you were summoned merely for keeping your shop open after 1 p.m., contrary to Section 2 of Shops Act. Worse might have happened, however, if that is any consolation. If they had found you walking in the open-air without visible means of subsistence, they might have sentenced you to five years' penal servitude and seven years' police supervision. Be careful.

A. W. (Stock Exchange).—Surely, you don't mean to say it is a new discovery on your part that London theatres and music-halls charge most exorbitant prices for their programmes, printed in advertisements? This imposition is as old as the hills, the defence being that the programme rights are sold to advertising agents over whom the management have no control. What about the cloak-room charges?

G. S. (Newport, Mon.).—Sorry to hear that the lady would not allow the maids to use either of the two bathrooms, but the fact that "she gave them permission to wash themselves in a tub that the dog and the clothes were washed in" seems to indicate that she did not wish to lock up the water or the soap. Nothing is ever as bad as it might be.

J. P. (Bareilly, India).—It is another variation of the old Spanish prisoner swindle. Juan Rosales has great powers of imagination, but as a liar he is wanting in technique, as he does not "fine his flats."

C. S. G. (Greytown, Natal).—So you *too* "want the pleasure of seeing Mr. Bottomley back in the House of Commons," do you? We hope to give you the pleasure, some day.

C. B. K. (Wigan) sends us a letter from Henry Sagar, Money-lender. It is a dainty little document, enclosed in a dainty little envelope, and has the appearance of a *billet doux*. Our correspondent was away from home when it arrived, and thanks his stars that he has not a jealous wife. But in that case she might have opened the letter—and no harm would have been done.

"CAPTAIN" (Inverness) is in command of a company of Territorials and, thinking to bring it up to strength, he did some personal canvassing in the district. On the evening of his first day's work he received a bright letter from a youth, who made an offer to join on condition that the Captain let him kill rabbits on his farm. Not bad for a Scot.

A. A. (Bradford) is the father of a lad who enlisted at the age of sixteen. He wants to know whether he can claim his son out of the Army. He can claim, but we doubt very much if he will be successful. All manner of stumbling blocks will be placed in the way.

"BAR ASSISTANT" (S.E.).—Sorry your previous employer "acted very dirty" towards you. Send him a bar of soap by way of revenge, as you have now no chance of drinking his beer.

W. F. S. (Bexhill).—"Sir,—When St. Paul wrote that a bishop (deacon, *sic*) should be the husband of one wife he was writing against polygamy; he was not advising matrimony or the reverse." As long as he wasn't advising the Bishop of London to be a bachelor and make a shout because other people appear to be economising their families, we make no complaint.

A. S. (Whitley Bay).—Afraid you have no sense of humour.

G. E. (Banbury).—"I have often wished you would start a non-Party daily paper, as I get sick of reading the present party newspapers." If you get as sick as we do, you must be having a shocking time at sea. Wait till we are a millionaire, there or thereabouts. As to the other affair, if people are foolish enough to be let in by such firms, nothing we can say will dissuade them.

J. N. (N. Devon).—The address of Messrs. Watts and Co., the publishers, is 17, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street. They will send you all particulars of their publications on request.

H. R. (Liverpool).—Evidently the Holborn Vulcanite Co., 2, Princeton Street, Holborn, W.C., think they perceive green in your eye. Keep your money, and let them keep their prizes and their fountain pens.

T. H. (Newtown).—Pooh! The London Jewellery Syndicate live a dirty existence on the emptyings of waste-paper baskets and dust-bins, that's why.

E. F. H. (Minster).—Thanks for yours. "Why," you ask, "cannot Roman Catholics, Wesleyans, Anabaptists, and Plymouth Brethren have preferment occasionally, say to the deanery of St. Paul's?" But isn't this rather like asking why Sir Edward Carson should not occasionally lead the Nationalist Party and Mr. John Redmond lead the Loyal and United Order of Orangemen?

C. C. (Highgate).—You allege that on Sundays the Highgate Picture Palace keep people waiting when there are seats to be filled, in order to induce them to transfer to higher-priced seats. We must keep an eye on that picture palace, to see whether what you say is true.

E. O. (Randfontein).—A. Tanquerey, *fils*, of Paris, was one of the most preposterous liars extant while he lived. He has been dead three years, and the Société Artistique de Portraits carry on his wicked old game. The testimonials are impudent forgeries.

"LEGION" (West Rand).—On several occasions we have commented severely on the advertisements of the Ostrich Farm Co., 109, Oxford Street, London, *re* its 2s. ostrich feather, illustrated as a plume worth about 50s. For your compliments and confidence, much thanks.

T. M. (Camborne) draws our attention to the activity of the Empire Tobacco Co., who are operating in his town. We thought the snowball trick was played out.

"PARENT" (London, W.) asks us to furnish certain particulars with reference to the Church Nursing and Ambulance Brigade. We are sorry we cannot supply them, as the Rev. Thomas Milner, who calls himself the Brigade Commandant, does not care to give us an interview. Why?

A. T. (Leigh-on-Sea).—You think that "judging by the many clerical scandals we have been having recently," some of the bishops would be much better occupied looking after the morals of the clergy than the morals of the public. The average layman is probably quite as moral as the average parson; not that we would insult the clergy as a class by pretending to believe that they are immoral as a rule. But men who are so righteous by precept must expect to be severely judged when they fail in righteous example.

E. S. F. (Ramsgate).—If you read this column carefully you would have no need to ask us about the *Livre Français à l'Etranger*, of Paris. As we have frequently stated, it is a concern for getting rid of books. They want your money; they *don't* want your translations.

HELEN G. (Loughborough).—This is your advice to girls: "A man in full-blown dignity comes strutting up the room, He's eyeing all the pretty girls with whom he means to spoon. I tell them to ignore him and look upon the floor, Just let him feel the worm he is of five feet long, no more. He'll think there's——"; but enough said. You remind us of the old story of the little girl who went rushing out of the garden to her mother, crying, "Mummy, mummy! Jack's tweading on all the worms." "He's a very cruel boy," said her mother. "Yes, mummy," came the response, "an' he won't even let me tread on one."

Pastime and Profit is Provided by "Bullets." Prizes value £1,562 weekly.

LETTER BAG.—Continued.

LEGAL.

W. J. G. (Hants).—The firm is liable under the Workmen's Compensation Act to pay your brother half-wages during the time he is totally incapacitated. If when he resumes work he is unable, owing to his injuries, to earn as much as he could before the accident, the firm would be liable to make up the difference between what he was earning before the accident, and what he is able to earn in some suitable employment since. If they refuse to pay he should take out a summons in the County Court. They are not liable to pay the doctor's bill in addition.

J. P. B. (Stockport).—Having regard to the fact that the house cost £400 to build, we should not advise you to contest the matter, as the Court might hold that the house is, in fact, of the rental value of £20, and that the rates are under-assessed.

A. W. (Barnsbury).—"If a person orders goods to be made, valued at 50s., and leaves 20s. on deposit, does the bill showing the balance require a receipt?" Certainly.

"Father."—You will have to carry out the transaction by a Deed of Gift. You had better employ a solicitor. The cost will be about five guineas.

I. V. J. (Porth).—If the man agreed in writing to purchase the house, and now declines, you could sue him for damages for breach of contract. If he did not agree in writing, but is living in the house and declines to purchase or pay rent, you could apply in the Police Court for an Ejectment Order, or you could sue in the County Court for "use and occupation," the amount claimed being the rental value for the time he has occupied the premises. Try if possible to come to some amicable arrangement.

M. S. A. (Yorks).—You cannot do anything in the matter, as it would only be your word against theirs.

"Glosso" (Gloucester).—Provided a Sanitary Inspector is armed with a Justice's Order, he can demand entrance to any dwelling house for the purpose of inspection. Refusal to admit him may be punished by a fine of five pounds.

"Saxon" (Glasgow).—You can divorce your wife if she has gone away with another man, provided you can afford the costs of the proceedings. If she has merely deserted you and is living alone, you can institute proceedings for restitution of conjugal rights and obtain an order for her return. But if she refuses to obey it, you are practically helpless.

FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

Loan.—A. B. C. (Balham).—You do not comply with our rule by giving your name and address—not necessarily for publication but as evidence of good faith. We are afraid we know of no institution which would make you a loan in the circumstances you mention, and we do not care to recommend transactions with moneylenders.

"John Bull" Bank.—G. M. (West Kensington).—We observe with interest your statement that you "have received very courteous and business-like treatment from the John Bull Bank." The address of The Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Ltd., is 80, Coleman Street, E.C.

Lewis and Burrows.—B. A. (Paddington).—The company, we believe, has a sound business, but the market in the shares is very restricted, and we should not advise a purchase.

Alexandra Dock and Railway 4½ p.c. A Pref.—"Inquirer" (St. Ives).—This is quite a safe investment at present price, but do not pay much more for it.—**Grand Trunk 5 p.c. Secured Notes.**—As a short term investment these are sound enough, although you are likely to see them lower before maturity. By 1918, however, conditions ought to justify their being replaced on favourable terms.

Panama Canal Lottery.—"Remo."—We have no information in regard to the firm of agents, but the Bonds are doubtless quite genuine.

Nakamun Asphalt and Oil.—J. J. (Blisworth).—Send us your full name and address and any documents you have.

Three Companies.—S. E. M. (Nottingham).—Please send full name and address, when your inquiry shall receive attention.

Straits Coconut and Copra Company.—Highlander (Inverness).—Great efforts are being made to interest the public in coconut plantations, but although some of them may pay in private hands, the Straits Government have considered it necessary to warn investors against putting money into most of the schemes brought over here.

Acadia Coal Company.—E. J. S. (Malvern).—There is no market for the shares here, and nothing is known as to the position and prospects of the company. You should ask the secretary what price he can get for your holding as it stands and for the Preference shares offered in exchange.

Liverpool Victoria Insurance Corporation.—W. M. (Montrose).—(*a*) We should allow the assurance to lapse and take out a policy with one of the first-class offices. (*b*) The Friendly Society is in a strong position financially, but you should consider the rules relating to Surrenders and Free Paid Up Policies in the event of the assurance being discontinued.

Pioneer Life Assurance Company.—"Demonstrator."—We see no reason why a duplicate policy should not be issued. The company, however, having been notified that the original policy is lost, would not dispute the payment of a claim on same arising, but would require a form of indemnity to be signed by the person claiming.

Provident Association of London.—G. C. (Eastbourne).—(1) We do not recommend the Investment House Property Policies of this concern. (2) Apply to the Metropolitan Life Assurance Society, 13, Moorgate Street, London, E.C., or the Equitable Life Assurance Society, Mansion House Street, London, E.C.—S. E. (Llangenneck).—We have no reason to question the financial soundness of the Association. Our criticisms have been directed against the inequitable conditions, from an investor's standpoint, associated with their Bond Certificates and Investment House Property policies.

City Life Assurance Company.—J. B. (Edinburgh).—Ignore the circular you have received and hold the shares. We have a good opinion of the future of the company, but, as we have previously pointed out, the expenditure involved in the building up of an Industrial Branch requires to be kept well under control, and, if it is the intention of the management to push this branch, the capital should be increased to meet the demands which much inevitably arise before income will exceed expenditure.

SPORTING.

Sporting inquiries must be addressed to the Sporting Editor, 52, New Broad Street, E.C.

Grand National Sweep.—Sporty.—The best Sweep on the National is that of Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Lucerne, Switzerland. The guaranteed prizes (with money lodged in the Bank), are £10,000, but for further particulars you must write him as above.

"John Bull" Derby Sweep.—Patsy.—The best form of remittance is by British Postal Order, but you will be wise to register your letter.—Jack H.—You must apply to Messrs. Smallman and Terry, Geneva, Switzerland.—Canadian.—You can easily get over the postal difficulties by sending your subscription through some friend or relative in England.—B. T. (Stockport).—Geneva is sufficient address.

The Trades and Labour Sweepstake.—X. Y. Z.—This is a subsidiary branch of the Turf Pool Syndicate's Lincolnshire Sweep, and has, we understand, been specially designed for the convenience of Trade Unionist organisations. The Draw is to take place under the personal supervision of ten representative Trade Unionists, and our Editor has also arranged to be present. For further information we must refer you to the Turf Pool Syndicate, Geneva, Switzerland.

"London Mail" Derby Sweep.—Curios.—As we have already stated, this is a thoroughly genuine affair. Mr. W. Hammond (Universal Turf Society), Weggis, Switzerland, is the Manager of the Sweep.

"Football Chat" (Kriens).—D. W. (Clam.).—We note your experience, but are not surprised. We have so frequently warned our readers against these people. Their letter of February 2nd in which they state that "owing to the results being much in favour of the Clients (*sic*) this last eight weeks" they are "unable to meet any future demands" is a bit cool. Why don't you deal with the straight firms?

"London, Liverpool and the Globe Turf Syndicate" (Geneva).—W. H. R. (Leith, N.B.), N. D. (Consett), "Ivy" (Marlow), and Others.—Have nothing to do with this concern. The appropriation of a name similar to that of a leading English Insurance Office is, of course, an unwarrantable liberty.

Carlton Sports Club (Montreux).—J. H. G. (Newcastle).—Do not touch these people's Waterloo Cup Sweep. We note the interesting discrepancy in the tickets. You are wise in confining your business to Smallman and Terry, of Geneva, and Patrick O'Brien, of Lucerne.

Patrick O'Brien's Grand National Sweep.—Ajax.—In addition to the prize fund of £10,000, which has been lodged in a leading London Bank, Mr. O'Brien has arranged for a sum of £1,000 to be placed in our hands for distribution amongst English Charities, which will provide some very nice Easter eggs for deserving institutions. The Editor has agreed to be present at the Draw.—B. T. (Stockport).—Gilmer, Lucerne, is sufficient address.

H. Diamond (Lucerne).—Clayton West.—We understand that Mr. Diamond is about to recommence business for the season, on the Grand National. His Sweeps are absolutely straight.

Football Competitions.—T. T. (Bow).—Do not take any notice of the piffle in question. The man is up the pole.

Don't forget the Pen Coupon on page iii. of cover.

CITY NOTES.

(For Financial and Insurance Letter-Box, see Letter Bag pages.)

The Stock Markets.

Markets have been too much occupied with the heaviest settlement experienced for a long time to worry greatly about the lack of fresh business. But now that it is no longer necessary for office staffs to burn the midnight oil, the Stock Exchange is wondering whether the January boom was merely a flash in the pan. It is quite certain that the recent activity has not overflowed to any appreciable extent into the speculative markets, and for the present we do not see much hope in that direction. At the same time investment business has received a sufficient impetus to keep going and maintain prices, so that there is little danger of a serious reaction unless something quite unexpected happens, or that the flood of new issues absorbs all the free capital available for the purpose. We are still in favour of the better-class Home securities, which we think are much more likely to prove profitable to investors than the great bulk of foreign stocks with all the risks of political and financial complications over which we can exercise no control. Railway dividends on the whole have been very satisfactory, and the North-Eastern distribution is particularly gratifying while all the big lines have done pretty well. American Railroads are dangerous and undesirable, and no one seems to be able to gauge the prospects at all accurately. Canadian things ought to be left severely alone, and although the Grand Trunk has squeezed out the same dividend as last time, we are very doubtful whether it has been fairly and squarely earned. Among miscellaneous markets, Rubbers have shown to considerable advantage owing to the cheering results of the fortnightly auctions, but we have a shrewd suspicion that the prices are to some extent artificially manipulated. Oils have not attracted much attention, but North Caucasians, Schibieffs and Bibi Eybats have shown some strength.

A Cinema Result.

The few companies which run cinematograph theatres at a profit, are, as has been foretold in these columns, earning small dividends for shareholders. The United Electric Theatres, Limited an undertaking started with the best of prospects and, apparently, carried on in an efficient manner, after declaring an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., is able to pay only a balance dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. for the second half of its financial year. The company had nine theatres in operation during the period covered by the accounts, bringing in a gross income of £48,900. This handsome income, however, yielded but £3,900 in divisible profits to shareholders, and as the dividend cannot be paid out of this sum, the amount brought over from the previous year has to be utilised for the purpose. In our opinion the balance dividend should not be paid. The directors refer to the increasing competition and the high cost of films, and these factors alone should have deterred them from depleting the company of its cash resources in order to make a show of prosperity.

Coconut Shies.

Following the Rubber boom, strenuous efforts were made to arouse enthusiasm in coconut plantations. So far as the general public are concerned, coconuts are only known as things to try and hit at fairs, or as an indigestible topdressing for cakes. But there is a huge business in the nuts for the sake of the vegetable oil they contain, which is extremely valuable in the manufacture of margarine and other butter substitutes; indeed, the production that comes on the market amounts to over half a million tons a year. In these circumstances it was seen highly reasonable that a sound investment industry ought to be established, and many propositions have been brought to London with this object in view, while a whole lot are awaiting a favourable opportunity of appealing to the public. Fortunately for the promoters the Malay Government and other authorities have considered it necessary to issue a warning that the known estates cannot be regarded as affording a sound basis for financial operations, and although private owners may make quite handsome profits, the public are emphatically told to scrutinise very carefully any coconut schemes brought to their notice.

Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa.

An important circular has just been issued to the shareholders, giving particulars of the progress of the boring. In a report from the company's consulting engineer, Mr. J. E. Mills Davies, he states the gas indications recently encountered in the Ceres borehole come from a narrow band of shale and not from marshy vegetation as believed by Mr. Cunningham Craig. Mr. Mills Davies attaches importance to the gas, as it indicates what may be looked for in greater quantity lower down. Some delay has apparently occurred in boring operations due to the industrial disturbances in South Africa, but the contractors hope to complete the borehole in about six weeks' time.

Trinidad Grand River Oil.

The prospectus of this Company, which made its appearance last week-end, strikes us as being singularly deficient in information to which intending investors have a right. We observe that the property to be acquired has apparently passed through the hands of several intermediaries, presumably at a profit, although we find no particulars whatever given in the prospectus of the various purchase prices. And intending investors are coolly told that they can inspect the purchase agreements at the offices of the solicitors or at the registered address of the company, in Edinburgh and Glasgow respectively! This may be all very well for the canny Scot, but provides little satisfaction for the Southerner who is being asked to put his money into the concern. Section 81 of the Companies Act expressly provides for the disclosure of information relating to purchase price, etc., and we shall be glad to know why this requirement has not been complied with.

The Robinson-Crown Board.

We recently referred to the ignominous collapse of the pretty scheme which was on foot to amalgamate these companies. In their latest circulars the Robinson directors state that, in view of the opposition from shareholders they "approached the directors of the Crown Mines Limited with a view to obtaining their consent to an abandonment of the provisional agreement." Five of the directors of the Robinson are directors of the Crown Mines Limited, the remainder being directors of other Wernher-Beit companies. Both concerns have the same secretary, offices and telephone. It would be interesting to learn how the directors of the Robinson "approached" themselves as directors of the Crown "with a view to obtaining their (own) consent to an abandonment of the provisional agreement." Having regard to the recent turmoil in the streets of Johannesburg, it is, perhaps, just as well that they weren't obliged to leave their respective armchairs in order to put an end to the deal. Still, we should like to have seen them at work over it.

Who is Responsible?

It has been suggested lately that, in addition to the directors and promoters of a company, its bankers, brokers and others whose names appear on the "front-sheet" might be held liable for any misrepresentation appearing in the prospectus. Reference to Section 84 of the Act shows that, besides directors and promoters "every person who has authorised the issue of the prospectus is to be held responsible for its contents." Taken in its widest sense, this description would include the bankers, brokers, auditors and solicitors, who not only may be taken to authorise the issue, but who in many cases, actually hand copies of it to those who apply at their offices. But solicitors (trust the legal fraternity to look after themselves!) are expressly exempt from being considered "promoters" by sub-section 5 of the Section which states that the expression promoter "does not include any person by reason of his acting in a professional capacity for persons engaged in procuring the formation of the company." Whilst this lets them out as "promoters," does it also absolve them as persons who have "authorised the issue of the prospectus"? And if this definition is to be interpreted in its widest sense, does not it also include the printer of the prospectus and the secretary of the company who "authorises" the office boy to hand them to applicants? The point raised is a pretty one, and we should like to argue it before m'lud. A tolerably good case could be made out for either side.

Your Football Skill may win you £1,750. Final Coupon this week.

Racing Notes.

For the Lincolnshire Cuthbert heads the quotations. He was unlucky when disqualified last year, but is by no means so favourably treated now. Of Mr. J. B. Joel's lot, Blue Stone is the present choice. Through Light Brigade he is undoubtedly well treated, but it is useless touching any of the Wantage horses until we know the stable intentions. Sir Martin is doing good work, and if serious business is meant will be very dangerous.

We only did fairly well with our selections last week, but once again the best thing got home, this being Ante, who, at 9 to 2, scored so nicely at Hurst Park on Saturday. The price would be a very agreeable surprise to stay-at-home backers.

This week there is nothing very important at the charming little Ludlow Club meeting to-day and to-morrow where, however, BELUS may win the Castle Steeplechase and MR. PEPPER the Bromfield Hurdle on the first day, whilst PERIWARD should take the Liverpool Trial Steeplechase and SIMON THE LEPPER the Oakly Steeplechase on the second.

On the first day of Kempton the Rendlesham Hurdle, has cut up badly and now looks good for GENERAL'S PRIDE. With a run the Thames Hurdle must be won by WRACK, and THE LAST should be capable of taking the Middlesex Steeplechase. On Saturday LONDERRY, with all his weight in the Bushey Park Hurdle, must be the week's best thing. QUICKFORD may win the Littleton Hurdle and ROMAN CANDLE the Portland Steeplechase.

The Editor's horses have not been very lucky lately, but BOUTON ROUGE is "expected" at Kempton, whilst the stable should be followed at Plumpton on Monday.

"DUGGIE'S" "DOUBLES."

Mr. Douglas Stuart is evidently going to maintain his pre-eminent position as Turf Accountant. He is issuing for the coming season a charmingly bound book of Rules, which contains a veritable mine of information, and is making a speciality of the "playful double" on the Lincoln and National, offering prices which surely constitute a record. And, what is more, they will be paid.

Football Fancies.

By "McW."

I have been reading with amusement, akin to pity, the woeful wail of Mr. J. M. Hogge, the Liberal M.P. for East Edinburgh. Addressing a P.S.A. audience at Westbourne Park Chapel last Sunday, he certainly went the "whole Hogge" (pardon the jest). Discussing "tips" on horse-racing he said he would make a bet with any one of his hearers. He would offer the choice of any sporting paper, and if they followed the advice given by a tipster in that paper for one month, put a shilling on each horse they were advised to back, and won any money at the end of the month, he would multiply it by a hundred and give it to any charity they liked.

Mr. Hogge is a canny Scot. He is backing an almost "dead cert." Surely he must have taken his hearers to be a set of congenital asses. In backing, as in laying, you must adopt business methods. The "crank" is suggesting a system which would not be adopted by anyone outside a lunatic asylum.

However, it is when he comes to Football Competitions that Hogge, the crank, shows himself to be crazy. He quotes one paper as having received 1,181,000 coupons in a recent competition; but wherein lies the harm? We give each week to each purchaser six-pennyworth of good, sound, sensible reading for a penny, and throw in, as a makeweight, the chance of winning an odd thousand pounds or two. That is not gambling, Mr. Hogge, but sound benevolence, much as if a P.S.A. meeting gave you a Sunday afternoon's entertainment with a chance of sharing in the collection. The P.S.A. movement is a very fine thing, but, in the name of common-sense, why convert it into a Bunkum Brotherhood?

I trust that Mr. Hogge will not fulminate against Miss C. Goddard, of 4A, Russell Square, Brighton, for having gambled. Anyhow, she is the winner of the £3 I offered for the best Football Rhyme. The example she chose was "Shea on the ball," and her rhyme was, "His 'sphere,' that's all." I am awarding 20 Special prizes to others who sent me good rhymes.

When are you coming to see how our Football Competition is conducted?

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 21st February, 1914.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Season's Result.	JOHN BULL	The Umpire.	Weekly Dispatch.	News of the World.	Competitors' Guide.	Sunday Chronicle.	Sporting Gossip.	Lethaby's Weekly.
1ST LEAG.	Aston Villa v. West Bromwich A.	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	At Home	Home
	Millwall A. v. Sheffield United	—	Away	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Away
	Sheffield W. v. Brighton & H.	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sunderland v. Preston North End	—	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Birmingham v. Queen's Park R.	—	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Blackburn Rovers v. Manchester C.	—	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	West Ham United v. Liverpool	—	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Away
	Burnley v. Bolton W.	—	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Away	Home	Home
	Derby County v. Everton	Everton won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Newcastle United v. Oldham A.	Newcastle won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Barnsley v. Bristol C.	Barnsley won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Blackpool v. Notts Forest	Blackpool won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	—	Home	Home
	Fulham v. Bradford C.	Fulham won	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	—	Away	Home
	Huddersfield T. v. Grimsby Town	Grimsby won	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	—	Draw	Home
	Hull City v. Leeds City	Hull won	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Leicester Fosse v. Glossop	Glossop won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Lincoln City v. Woolwich Arsenal	No match	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw
	Notts County v. Stockport County	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Wolverhampton W. v. Clapton Orient	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
SOUTH. LEAG.—2ND LEAG.—N. & S. SECTIONS COMBINED	Bristol Rovers v. Coventry City	Bristol won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Merthyr Town v. Crystal Palace	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Away
	Plymouth A. v. Southampton	Plymouth won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Swindon Town v. Watford	Watford won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Cardiff City v. Norwich City	No match	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Home
	Exeter City v. Gillingham	Exeter won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Portsmouth v. Southend	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home

New Picture Competition. £10 and 300 Handsome Prizes Offered. See this week's "Mary Bull."

£350 TO BE WON WEEKLY IN THE "FOOTBALL WORLD"

For full particulars of an interesting skill competition send a postcard to address below.

Premier Prizes this season have been awarded as follows:—

Sept. 1st Contest (no tens predicted) 14 nines gained £17 17s. 1d.

„ 6th „ (no tens predicted) 38 nines gained £6 11s. 6d.

The above results—no tens for two successive contests—constitute a record for Continental Competitions.

Sept.	13th	Contest	2	tens gained	£125	0s.	0d.
„	20th	„	5	„ „	50	0	0
„	27th	„	117	„ „	2	2	6
Oct.	4th	„	53	„ „	4	14	4
„	11th	„	8	„ „	31	5	0
„	18th	„	41	„ „	0	1	11
„	25th	„	2	„ „	125	0	0
Nov.	1st	„	5	„ „	50	0	0
„	8th	„	3	„ „	83	0	0
„	15th	„	2	„ „	125	0	0
„	22nd	„	15	„ „	10	13	4
„	29th	„	17	„ „	14	14	1
Dec.	6th	„	10	„ „	25	0	0
„	13th	„	8	„ „	31	5	0
„	20th	„	40 nines (No tens predicted.)	„	6	5	0
„	27th	„	1 ten	„	250	0	0
Jan.	3rd	„	10 tens	„	25	0	0

THIS ADVERTISEMENT WILL NOT APPEAR AFTER Feb. 28th.

H. T. TERRY,

"Football World," Geneva, Switzerland

£50 REWARD.

This amount will be paid to any person satisfying the Editor of "John Bull" that he has a claim against A. H. WESTWOOD which has not been met. Results on January 31, 1914 were disastrous, but, as usual with A. H. WESTWOOD all claims have been paid in full.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published in the following issue.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL of specified date, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number pay the sum of ONE GUINEA in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a report of all the work done.

The following correct numbers have been received:—

Mr. T. LINDLEY, 5, Perth Road, Milton, Portsmouth. January 10. 80065.

Mr. A. WILSON, 5, Brighton Avenue, Flixton, Lancs. January 17. 47339.

Mr. V. FINCH, 40, Simmonds Street, Wanderers' View, Johannesburg, Transvaal. November 8, 912,683.

Mr. J. W. REYS, 40, Talbot Street, Burnley. January 24. 722,658.

Mr. M. ANDERSON, 55, Washington Street, Girlington, Bradford. January 17. 47339.

Mr. CHAS. EWINS, 23, Swiss Cottages, Elms Road, Aldershot. January 17. 218021.

Mr. J. BAGSHAW, 32, Eustace Street, Warrington. January 17. 931,452.

Mr. CHAS. PARKER, 10, Noble Street, Leicester. January 24. 471,997.

Mr. J. THOMAS, 14, Merthyr Street, Barry Dock. January 3. 653,971.

Mr. W. E. BROWN, 32 Dunraven Avenue, Belfast. January 24. 333,656.

Mr. CHAS. SMITH, 24, Edith Road, Smethwick, Birmingham. January 2. 872,159.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of February 14:—

4063	170094	382706	684694	894311
33109	176337	417869	688854	897714
43469	195166	443809	690188	899837
50628	207404	464718	693449	904668
88022	221803	490463	704048	947328
120104	258110	508001	746855	960149
125373	276388	531276	777822	977422
143291	307248	556890	816165	A000941
166734	342641	566180	846918	A001632
	346711	577726	872881	A000951

The A prefixed to a drawn number indicates it is plus a million.

The Fifty Numbers in respect of this week will be announced in our next issue (published on February 25th).

THE TOTALISATOR,

LUCERNE, Switzerland.

Following are names of a few Winners of Totalisator Prizes.

£1006 won by E. H. Hann Esq., 77a, Larden Rd., Acton, London, W.
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